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THE TIMES

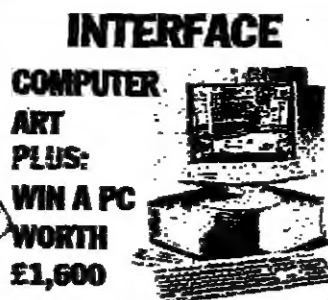
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No. 65,556

WEDNESDAY APRIL 17 1996



BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL
Colours are back on the catwalk
FASHION
PAGE 16



INTERFACE
COMPUTER ART PLUS:
WIN A PC WORTH £1,600

FIT FOR THE KING
Benedict Nightingale on *Elvis - the Musical*
PAGE 34



NIGELLA LAWSON
Divorce and the royal soap opera
P17

Divorce for the Yorks today

Duchess to lose HRH style under £2 million settlement

By Alan Hamilton and Emma Wilkins

THE Duke and Duchess of York will today be granted a "quickie" divorce to end their ten-year marriage. It was announced last night.

The couple's case will be heard in the Family Division of the High Court at Somerset House, London, this morning. A decree absolute is expected to dissolve the marriage finally by the end of May.

In a statement issued jointly through their solicitors the couple said that the decision to divorce was a personal one, and for the sake of their children, which both regarded as of paramount importance. No further statements would be made and no further information provided.

The statement added that the couple's two children, Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie, would continue to live with the Duchess, although both parents would participate fully in their upbringing. It also said that the Duchess would continue to be known as the Duchess of York but would drop the appellation Her Royal Highness bestowed on her by the Queen at the time of her marriage.

Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson married in the full glare of television coverage in Westminster Abbey in July 1986. They announced their separation in March 1992, and have since lived apart, although they have occasionally been seen together at events involving their children.

Downing Street last night said that the Prime Minister had been kept fully informed of the divorce plans. Officials said that there would be no further comment from John Major's office, as there were no constitutional implications. The Duke is fourth in line of succession to the throne, and his children fifth and sixth.

The announcement is understood to have been brought forward when it was learned that *The Daily Mail* was about to break the story.

Palace officials said private-



Prince Andrew will take part in bringing up the children

ly that the Queen, who celebrates her 70th birthday on Sunday, had been anxious for some time that the failed marriages of her two elder sons should be brought to a quick and tidy conclusion but they stressed that the monarch had not written to the Duke and Duchess, as she had done to the Prince and Princess of Wales, and had not applied pressure on them in any other way. She had been kept fully informed and was saddened by the decision.

The Palace said that the Duke and Duchess remained close friends. They refused to discuss any financial arrangements accompanying the divorce, which they said were entirely a personal matter.

It emerged last night, however, that the Duchess is expected to receive a relatively modest settlement of £2 million, primarily intended to care for the couple's two children. Of the total, £1.4 million is to be invested in a trust for the children, leaving little more than £500,000 for the Duchess to maintain her lifestyle and to wrestle with

her debts. The deal is said to have been worked out at the time of the separation.

When the announcement was made yesterday the Duchess, aged 36, was in the middle of a week's skiing holiday with her children, Beatrice, 7, and Eugenie, 6, in Verbier, Switzerland. The Duke, who is 36 and a full-time Royal Navy officer, was at Buckingham Palace. They were last seen in public together ten days ago when they left their home at Sunninghill, near Windsor Castle, to help round up polo ponies which had escaped during a fire.

Although the decision to divorce is officially said to have been taken jointly, the indications are that the prime mover was the Duchess. It is known that she has favoured such a step for some time, while the Duke has been reluctant to take the initiative, hoping that some reconciliation might be possible. The sudden move is seen as a bold and decisive step by the Duchess to cut her losses, given recent adverse publicity over her debts, said to be £3

million, and a climate of adverse publicity.

Later this week the Duke is to part in a lengthy naval exercise. The Duchess is scheduled to make her next public appearance in Leeds next week, at the launch of a drugs education programme.

Last night Dr David Hope, Archbishop of York, said he was praying for the couple. "I am aware that such decisions are never made easily or without careful consideration," Lord St John of Fawsley said. "I hope that stories about the Yorks will disappear from the headlines now, but my hopes are greater than my expectations."

□ The statement issued on behalf of the Duke and Duchess said:

"The Duke and Duchess of York today announced through their respective solicitors, Henry Boyd-Carpenter of Messrs Farrer & Co and Douglas Alesdair of Messrs Gordon Dadds, that they have agreed, after more than two years' separation, that their marriage should formally be ended. Accordingly the necessary legal proceedings are under way and it is anticipated that the Decree Absolute will be made at the end of May."

"The decision by the Duke and Duchess is a personal one, and theirs alone. Her Royal Highness The Duchess of York has chosen not to use the style 'Her Royal Highness' and will continue to be The Duchess of York."

"At the express wish of The Duke and Duchess and in the interests of their children, which they regard as of paramount importance, no further statement will be made or information provided. Consistent with the statement made by the Buckingham Palace Press Office on 28 June 1993 the children will continue to live with The Duchess, and both parents will participate fully in their upbringing."

Royal Divorce, pages 2 and 3
Nigella Lawson, page 17
Leading article, page 19



The Duchess with Princesses Beatrice (left) and Eugenie are on a skiing holiday in Verbier, Switzerland

One minute to end a marriage

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

THE marriage of the Duke and Duchess of York will effectively end today without pomp or ceremony at the divorce registry in London.

The petition, lodged by the Duke, is the last in a list of 29 "quickie" divorce matters to be rubber-stamped by the Senior District judge, Gerald Angel, in Court One at Somerset House.

The grounds cited for the divorce — a fast-track procedure which will be scrapped by the Government's current divorce reforms — is that he and the Duchess have lived apart for two years. If either

had not consented to the divorce, then they would have had to wait five years.

The hearing, scheduled for 10.30, is likely to last less than a minute, even though lawyers can be present. The names of all the parties on the list will be read and, barring any objections, decrees nisi will be granted "en bloc". Within six weeks the final decree, or decree absolute, will follow in the post. Both are then free to remarry.

Because all the paperwork has been signed and sealed behind the scenes, the marriage will end, along with the

others ranging alphabetically from Mr and Mrs Agvayong to Mr and Mrs Sacker, with a minimum of ceremony.

The days in which couples appeared in court amid public recriminations were effectively ended when the "quickie" procedure was introduced more than 20 years ago.

Under the Government's reforms, couples will have to wait at least one year before they can divorce and they will have had to reach agreement on children and finances, which is often not the case at present, before being granted what will be a divorce order.



"The secret of life? Become a divorce lawyer"

Shares record

Shares rose to a record level for the second day in a row, with the FTSE 100 index closing 34.8 points higher at 3,825.3. Pages 25, 28 and 30

Byline: The Times overseas 9 p.m. 30. Austria Sch 40; Belgium Frs 325; Canada Cdn\$ 120; Denmark Dkr 16.00; Finland Fmk 17.00; France F 14.00; Germany DM 4.50; Gibraltar Gbp 90c; Greece Dr 500; Netherlands H 4.50; Italy Lire 1,000; Japan Yen 150; Luxembourg Lfr 60; Madrid Ptas 160; Malta Mls 500; Norway Nkr 20.00; Portugal Esc 200; Spain Ptas 160; Sweden Sfr 10.50; Switzerland Sfr 2.20; Tunisia Din 2.00; USA \$ 3.50.

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Ministers launch BSE court battle with Brussels

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

THE Government put itself in conflict with Brussels again yesterday as it announced a legal challenge to the European Union's worldwide ban on the export of British beef and a £1 billion package of measures to help the industry.

It confirmed compensation for the destruction of up to a million older cattle a year to prevent their coming into the food chain and said that it was looking at the selective slaughter of animals considered most at risk from "mad cow" disease.

But it ruled out the mass slaughter of herds as it strives to eradicate BSE and restore consumer confidence.

Heralding the most serious court confrontation yet between Brussels and London, John Major told MPs that action would be taken in the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg to end "this totally unjustified ban".

At the same time, he wrote to Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, President Chirac of France, Lamberto Dini, the Italian Prime Minister, and Jacques Santer, the European Commission President, re-

newing his demand for the ban to be lifted as soon as possible.

The Cabinet decided to launch the court challenge yesterday against the background of increasing evidence, particularly in the Staffordshire South East by-election, that its handling of the crisis has further damaged its standing with the public.

Ministers favouring a challenge, notably Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Tony Newton, the Commons leader, had been strengthened in their

case by the recent admissions by Franz Fischler, the EU Agriculture Commissioner, and Mr Santer that they were happy to eat British beef. The move comes as British beef consumption has returned to about 85 per cent of pre-crisis levels.

The ban is being contested on the ground that it goes against scientific evidence. Mr Major told cheering Conservative MPs: "The export ban on British beef imposed by the Community is more motivated by the interests of other countries' own beef markets than it is about public health."

Under the compensation package announced later by Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, farmers will receive about £500 an animal for the destruction of cattle slaughtered at the age of 30 months or more. The scheme, 70 per cent funded by the EU, will cost about £550 million and come into effect on April 29. The Government will pay for slaughter and destruction.

He also announced, among other measures, a top-up scheme worth about £80 million to compensate farmers with older beef cattle whose market value is above £500

and a £110 million scheme to help the slaughtering industry which has unsold meat worth £132 million, threatening widespread company failures unless action is taken.

The minister also promised urgent work on a scheme to exempt specialist, BSE-free beef herds from the 30-month rule. He said the case for exempting such animals, which often do not mature until after 30 months, was strong.

Package details, page 12
Simon Jenkins, page 18
Letters, page 19

Protest over Cyprus killing

The parents of Louise Jensen, the Danish tour guide who was killed in Cyprus by three drunken British riflemen, have protested to the Prime Minister over the Army's failure to offer them compensation or an apology. Page 6

Secret base

Russia has secretly built a vast underground military complex in the southern Ural Mountains, the Clinton Administration said. The complex covers an area the size of Washington and is served by its own railway. Page 13

What is the function of
NUMBER 1?



The House of Commons

£1.4m for girls as mother tries to balance the books

BY EMMA WILKINS

THE royal divorce will ease the Duchess of York's financial crisis, which stems from her inability to restrain her lifestyle. A £2 million settlement, negotiated on the separation four years ago, is likely to form part of the divorce package, but the Duchess's debts of some £3 million will not be met by the Queen.

The Royal Family's main concern is to secure the financial future of Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie by placing money in trust, primarily for their education: £1.4 million is to be placed in trust for the princesses, from which £600,000 has been earmarked for a house they will eventually own. The Duchess will receive about £500,000 and the rest will be invested to provide a cash income to look after the young princesses.

Palace officials made it clear yesterday that the Duchess's personal finances were her own affair. Despite her best efforts to make a fortune from her children's books, the Duchess's fundamental problem is that her spending continues to far exceed her income. A love of expensive foreign holidays is matched only by excessive domestic costs: the wages bill for a



Kingsbourne: the home rented for £72,000 a year

string of servants at the Duchess's rented home, Kingsbourne, in Wentworth, Surrey, is some £32,000 a month while the eight-bedroom house itself costs £72,000 a year to rent.

Sunninghill Park, the Berkshire mansion which the Queen built for the couple as a wedding present, is occupied occasionally by the Duke. The Duchess and Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie are regular weekend visitors. The Queen's

displeasure at the Duchess's reckless attitude to money was made clear earlier this year when Buckingham Palace took the unusual step of announcing that the Queen was no longer prepared financially to support her wayward daughter-in-law.

The Duchess's ability to shop is legendary. On a recent trip to New York, she is said to have spent £3,000 on 20 pairs of shoes during a half hour shopping spree. Only the best

hotels in the smartest resorts will do for the Duchess, who flies on Concorde and buys first-class seats for her entourage. She is the only member of the royal family voluntarily to pay the full fare others expect to be upgraded from Business Class. When she stays in New York, it is always at the Carlyle Hotel, where suites cost up to £1,000 a night.

An appearance in last month's *Hello!* magazine, which shot a series of photographs in Paris, may have earned a few thousand pounds but was widely criticised as cashing in on her status. She hoped to make a fortune from her *Budgie the Little Helicopter* books. A recent deal with a New York publisher to exploit two new children's characters (one is a globe-trotting little princess) has yet to bear financial fruit.

Similarly, a deal with Ray Chambers, a New Jersey millionaire, is yet to prove the financial cure-all which the Duchess had hoped for. It has been forecast that Sleepy Kids, the company which owns the worldwide TV and merchandising rights for *Budgie*, would earn about £800,000 in the United States this year. The Duchess is unlikely to receive more than 20 per cent — a yearly income of £160,000 at the most.

The Duke, whose civil list payment of £249,000 is refunded to the Treasury by the Queen, earns £30,544 as a Lieutenant-Commander in the Royal Navy. Up to 80 per cent of his civil list income goes on staff costs, but he has been making a handsome financial contribution to his daughters.

The Duchess is negotiating with Tri Star pictures for an option on her story *Heather Blaze*, about the adventures of two mares with parallel but different lives.

There is talk of a Hollywood film on the life of the young Queen Victoria, based on two historical works written by the Duchess.

CHRONOLOGY

March 1986: engagement of Prince Andrew to Sarah Ferguson, daughter of the Prince of Wales's polo manager.
July 1986: wedding of Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson, both 26, become the Duke and Duchess of York.
October 1986: First reports of marriage strain due to Duke's absences from home on a helicopter instructor's course.
August 1988: Daughter Beatrice born.
March 1990: Daughter Eugenie born.

May 1990: Texan oilman Steve Wyatt files Duchess and Beatrice to Morocco for a holiday.
January 1992: Discovery of intimate photographs of Duchess and Mr Wyatt in Morocco.
March 1992: Palace announces official separation.
May 1992: Duchess moves out of Sunninghill Park to six-bedroom house on Wentworth estate in Surrey.
August 20, 1992: Britain scandalised by Italian paparazzo's photographs of John Bryan kissing the

topless Duchess's toes.
March 1993: Duchess tells *Harpers and Queen*: "I want out of the whole thing so I can get on with my life and stop being blamed for everything."
December 1994: Possibility of divorce raised by the Duchess at charity party.
December 13, 1994: She admits to taking AIDS tests.
January 1996: Reports that the Duchess owes £1 million. The Queen says that she will not bail her out. Duchess seals a American publishing deal.

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Meet Megan.

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The exuberant Duchess has been unable to shake off criticism of her love of shopping and expensive holidays

Falklands veteran who has tried to keep his head down

BY CAROL MIDDLEY

WHILE his wife has loomed ever larger in tabloid headlines, the Duke of York has had a low profile since their official separation in 1992.

The Queen's favourite son, once one of the most extroverted and photogenic of the royals, who fought for his country in the Falklands War, now cuts a solitary figure whose life revolves around his two daughters, his Royal Navy career and golf.

His weeks are split between his base, HMS Osprey on Portland, Dorset, where he is a senior pilot, his former marital home at Sunninghill, near Windsor, and a variety of golf courses.

Although he still carries out royal engagements, they are relatively few and rarely high profile. He has followed advice from Buckingham Palace advisers to keep his head below the parapet, maintaining his dignity in trying circumstances for the sake of his children.

The Duke has never made any secret of his enduring affection for his wife and is known to have made several attempts at reconciliation. Only last month it was reported that he had offered to abandon his naval career in a last effort to save his marriage, a move said to alarm the Queen. The offer was declined and it is reported that he then reluctantly agreed to a divorce.

Today, two months after his 36th birthday, royal commentators say he leads a somewhat "sad and directionless life".

The man who before his marriage was an exuberant bachelor prince linked with a string of glamorous women including the actresses Koo Stark and Katie Rabett, now

prefers to spend many of his evenings alone watching videos. According to friends, he enjoys thrillers, special effects and action movies, of which his favourite is *Top Gun*.

A tendency to compensate for his apparent loneliness by eating junk food has led to an expanding waistline and a weight of about 15 stone. *Stimulus* magazine recently named him their "Top Tubby" and newspaper headline writers have long labelled him the Duke of Pork.

As the senior pilot of the Fleet Air Arm's 815 Squadron based at HMS Osprey, the only squadron in the Navy which operates the Lynx helicopter, the Duke is in day-to-day charge, leading the squadron in the rank of lieutenant commander.

In the past he confessed to

feelings of isolation while serving at sea. "As a commanding officer you can on occasions get extremely lonely and isolated if you're not careful," he said, comparing mine-hunting to watching paint dry. Since his marriage failed, the Duke has been seen with friends with a several women, including the model Catrina Skepper and Lord Braybrooke's daughter Caroline Neville.

Asked at the age of 22 why his photographs often dealt with loneliness he said: "I'm not lonely. I'm a recluse. I just try to keep out of people's way."

Of all the Queen's children, and from an early age, he gained the reputation of being the most adventurous and individualistic.

He was billed the *Playboy*

Prince, the square-jawed helicopter pilot who fought with distinction in the Falklands and came home with a red rose between his teeth.

But he had also gained a reputation for being spoilt and prone to arrogance. Used to getting his own way, he was known to have insisted that even his closest friends called him "Sir".

The Prince's education began at the age of four with a group of children under a Palace governess. At eight he went to Heatherdown Preparatory School near Ascot, Berkshire. At 13 he followed the Prince of Wales to Gordonstoun School in Moray, Scotland, also spending two terms at a Canadian school in Ontario.

It was at Gordonstoun that he acquired the reputation of playing the "Great I Am" but, like his brothers before and after him, was not deemed up to the job of head boy. He was more noted for his sporting and theatrical activities than for his academic prowess, although he left with three A levels in 1979.

He had made his first solo flight as a glider pilot in 1976 and decided to follow his father and brother into the Royal Navy, choosing a 12-year short-career commission, which has since extended, as a helicopter pilot.

His career in the Navy got off to an inauspicious start.

In the mess one evening he grandly informed a rear admiral: "You can call me Andy."

"And you can call me Sir," was the icy reply.

But by 1982 he was on board *HMS Invincible* bound for the Falklands. He was to see active service as a second pilot of a Sea King helicopter on anti-submarine and transport duties.



The Duke of York early on in his helicopter-flying career with the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm

Couple's legal teams line up from opposite sides of social spectrum

BY FRANCES GIBB AND STEPHEN FARRELL

THE statement announcing the end of the Duke and Duchess of York's marriage was issued yesterday by two leading divorce lawyers who now act for the couple. They come from starkly contrasting backgrounds and to some extent each reflects his client.

Henry Boyd-Carpenter, the Queen's solicitor who is acting for the Duke, is of the old world, strictly correct and courteous school and very much of the Establishment.

He is a partner with Farrer & Co where he was the obvious choice to inherit the mantle when Sir Matthew, who was previously the Queen's lawyer, retired two years ago. Mr Boyd-Carpenter, 56, an old Carthusian who went to Balliol, is described by colleagues and other lawyers who have to deal with him as "delightful".

The Duchess, by contrast, has gone to Douglas Alexiou, highly rated as a divorce "heavyweight" and listed as

one of the "magic circle" of London's divorce lawyers. She picked Mr Alexiou after switching from Withers, the firm that acted for her at the time the separation was announced and who helped negotiate the settlement announced yesterday.

One source said: "It is a very fair deal. You have to remember that the Duke is a serving officer, he does not have vast sums of money. The whole thing was sorted out amicably and without problems."

The deal includes a financial settlement for the Duchess as well as arrangements governing the upbringing of the children, in which the couple are to share jointly.

Senior partner with the Mayfair law firm Gordon Dadds, Mr Alexiou, 53, is a former chairman of Tottenham Hotspur Football Club. Charming but tough, he is likely to have struck a fair bargain for the Duchess, but without ruffling feathers.

He is known for his soothing bedside manner and his discretion — "I never discuss clients," he said yesterday. His style is nonetheless more abrasive than Mr Boyd-Carpenter's. His clients have included Sarah Brightman, the singer who was married to the then Andrew Lloyd-Webber.

In addition to being The Queen's solicitor, Henry Boyd-Carpenter makes his other Establishment duties seriously. He has maintained links with his old school as a director of Charners Enterprise Ltd, is a director of the Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture and a member of the council of the Chelsea Physic Garden.

Mr Alexiou is known to his friends and colleagues as Douglas, but was christened Dimitris Augustus Alexiou. He lives in an exclusive area of Kingston-upon-Thames, south-west London, on the borders of Richmond Park in a detached but discreet Victorian

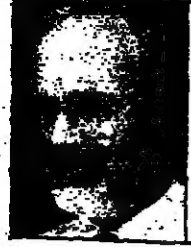
House in a cul de sac. His house is just 15 miles from the Duchess of York's Berkshire residence.

His wife was equally discreet last night. "My husband's business is his business. That's that. End of conversation."

The divorce of the Duke and Duchess will have few religious implications until either couple decide to remarry. Although Church of England clergy are allowed under the law of the land to remarry a divorced person in church, under church rules marriage is for life and a divorced man or woman cannot remarry in church if their former partner is still living.

Because the Queen is supreme governor of the church, the church wedding of a senior royal could be a source of potential embarrassment. If either of them wished to remarry in church, the Duke and Duchess would be encouraged to go outside England, as did the Duke of York's elder sister, the Princess Royal, who remarried in Scotland.

Duchess who made Palace see red



Alan Hamilton reports that the Queen has grown increasingly anxious for the Yorks and the Waleses to bring their messy affairs to neat and final conclusions

WHEN the Duke and Duchess of York announced their separation in March 1992, one of the kinder courtiers at Buckingham Palace privately described the former Sarah Ferguson as "sweet-natured but vulgar". Another, less discreetly, confided that the knives were out for a woman regarded as a loose cannon on the deck of a royal ship which has become ever more storm-tossed.

Pity the Queen as she approaches her 70th birthday on Sunday. There must have been moments in the past three years when she felt that a life devoted to the consummate practice of constitutional monarchy was unravelling in her hands, and that the rock of monarchical stability had turned to sand and was trickling through her fingers.

The perception of the Royal Family as a model family may be an outdated concept dreamed up by Queen Victoria, ably supported by Walter Bagehot, that has had its day. But the Queen has been in no doubt that the untidy loose ends of her two elder sons' failed marriages have done nothing but damage the good name of the Crown, and she has grown increasingly anxious that the Waleses and the Yorks bring their messy affairs to a neat conclusion.

When Sarah Ferguson breezed on to the royal scene in 1985, gaily throwing chocolate profiteroles at the object of her desire across a country-house dinner table, many saw her as a breath of fresh air in the musty royal corridors, and a perfect foil for the seemingly demure, glamorous but shy Princess of Wales. With her Titian hair and expansive manner, she seemed an ideal partner for Prince Andrew, a headstrong war hero who had seen active service in the Falklands and who was himself a bit of a prankster.

Older heads tutted that Miss Ferguson had what is politely known as "a past", lived mainly in the fast lane with such partners as the racing driver Paddy McNally. The fact that she came from a broken home, with her mother remarried to an Argentinian polo player, seemed at the time not to matter: the Princess of Wales, then at the height of her popularity, had after all not emerged either from a solid nuclear family.

Prince Andrew had an equally well-publicised past, which had involved a string of encounters with actresses and other defiantly non-royal partners. Loud and a touch buffoonish, they seemed well suited.

The fairytale marriage was sealed in front of a worldwide television audience on July 23, 1986. It lasted rather less than six years: even Catherine of Aragon lasted three times as long, and she was only the first of six.

What went wrong? Only the two parties involved in a marriage really know, but from the beginning it was clear that the Duchess of York fully intended to live her own life, particularly as her husband was spending long periods away from home as a full-time career officer in the Royal Navy. She was especially determined not to bow to the fusty conventions of court life, with the result that she rapidly lost such friends as she might have had in positions of influence at the Palace.

Eyebrows were raised in the first days of their marriage,

when they commissioned a large, purpose-built family house at Sunninghill, near Ascot, whose vulgar style immediately attracted to it the name *South York* — an echo of the television soap *Dallas*. Soon afterwards the Duchess announced that she needed to earn a living like every other modern married gel, and was to become a children's author.

Her *Budgie the Helicopter* books attracted their share of disaster. She was accused of plagiarism when it was discovered that a remarkably similar series had been published in the 1960s, and she was accused of worse when it was suggested that, instead of donating 90 per cent of the book's profits to charity, as had been understood, she was directing most of the proceeds into her personal account.

On their first overseas tour together, to Canada in 1987, the couple seemed gauche, he overweight and she clowning in awkward fashion. They accepted a pair of fur coats as gifts from a provincial nabob, an act which backfired seriously with the animal rights lobby in Britain.

While the Duke was pursuing his naval career, the Duchess appeared determined to keep up the social whirl and the same set of friends, that she had in her single days. She retained, in particular, her friendship with Paddy McNally.

Her endlessly energetic style, increasingly appeared not to suit her husband, tired when ashore from sea postings, or after a hard day's work at yet another demanding naval course. Many a night, he simply wanted to put his feet up, and the Duchess was increasingly seen at social functions without him.

Late in 1991, when the couple were still ostensibly together and looking after their two children Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie, a cleaner working in a Mayfair apartment found photographs showing the Duchess on holiday in Spain



The toe-sucking photos taken secretly in France

with a Texan, Steve Wyatt. The pictures were handed to police, but not before newspapers had been made fully aware of them.

By Christmas that year, the Duke and Duchess were at Sandringham talking informally to the Queen of separation. The embarrassment bandwagon has never stopped since. The Duchess's father, Major Ronald Ferguson, was photographed emerging from a Mayfair massage parlour, and was later the subject of an unpleasant kiss-and-tell biography by a woman with whom he had had an affair.

Worst of all, the Duchess, who devoted herself almost full-time to jetting around the world on exotic holidays and running up huge bills, was secretly photographed at a villa in the south of France



The Yorks' wedding had a worldwide audience but it ran into trouble early on, the Duke preferring a quiet life as the Duchess enjoyed the social whirl

having her toes sucked by her so-called "financial adviser", another Texan named John Bryan. What upset the Queen, and many others who saw the pictures, was that Bryan and the Duchess were being watched closely by her children, and not so closely by two slumbering royal protection police officers.

Bryan moved from being the Duchess's "financial adviser" and "unofficial press spokesman" to the new man in her life, escorting her on a South Pacific holiday after it was announced that she was separating from the Duke.

In London, he became her companion-around-town, arranging meetings with bankers and taking her to parties. Not everyone was so taken with the Texan. "He's got to be the biggest social climber of all time," said the Greek millionaire and gossip columnist Taki Theodoracopoulos.

The Duke, meanwhile, became somewhat reclusive, spending long hours alone at Sandringham while the Duchess moved into an expensive rented house. Once a photography buff fascinated by the inner workings of cameras, he found ever more solace in his new passion of golf.

Even in recent months, the Duchess has seemed incapable of putting the brakes on her jet-setting lifestyle, despite a warning from the Queen that the monarch had no intention of bailing her out of her mounting debts. Last month she flew at short notice halfway round the world, from the Middle East to Florida, in pursuit of the Austrian tennis star Thomas Muster, with whom she has been romantically linked.

When the Duchess appeared on the royal scene, she was regarded as a close ally of the Princess of Wales; the two at first seemed to provide support for each other, outsiders at sea in the unfriendly royal ocean. Although the reasons may be entirely different, the two women now seem to be facing a strangely similar fate. The ocean has not tamed them, but nor have they tamed the ocean.



Making waves: the marriage has been consistently dogged by controversy

ALLIANCE DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS REMOVALS & ALWAYS CONSERVATORIES PUBS ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY CALL SERVICES FLORISTS PLUMBERS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURIERS WING & INSTALLATION DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS (AGE TAKEAWAYS CONSERVATORIES ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY GARAGE SERVICES FLORISTS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURIERS WING & INSTALLATION DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS (AGE TAKEAWAYS CONSERVATORIES ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY GARAGE SERVICES FLORISTS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITORS TELEPHONES 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Paraglider bounces back from mile-high freefall

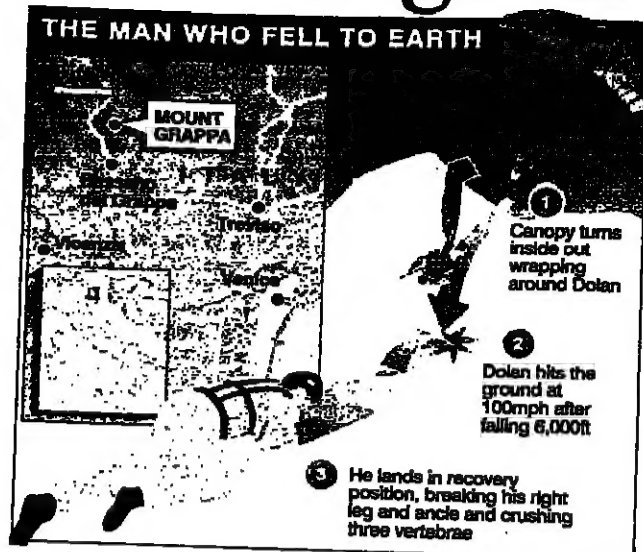
By PAUL WILKINSON
AND KYLE SMITH

A PARAGLIDER who hit a boulder-strewn mountainside at 100mph after his parachute collapsed not only survived but expects to make a full recovery.

Pat Dolan escaped from a mile-high freefall with a broken right leg and three crushed vertebrae. He is paralysed from the waist down, but spinal injuries experts say he should be walking within months.

Mr Dolan's specially designed parachute, which acts as an aerofoil, collapsed when he flew into turbulence in the Dolomites in northern Italy. He had taken off from Mount Grappa at 5,000ft and soared to 6,500ft where he hit an "asymmetric" tuck, which caused his canopy to collapse inwards. It wrapped itself tightly around him, preventing him from releasing his emergency parachute.

"There was no drag on my canopy to slow me down because it had wrapped itself around my arms and body completely. I was falling in the standing up position at about



100mph," said Mr Dolan, 39, whose accident happened three weeks ago.

Speaking from his bed in the spinal injuries unit at Pinderfields General Hospital, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, yesterday, he said: "All I could do was watch the ground as it got closer and closer. I didn't have time to think about anything else. I wasn't scared at all. I just gave

into the situation and let it happen. As I fell to within a few yards of the ground, I tensed up and shut my eyes tightly. I didn't feel any pain when I hit the ground. I just blacked out."

He puts his survival down to hitting a sloping surface. "I bounced up again and rolled downwards into a small mound of snow. I would have gone 'splat' if I'd landed on a

flat surface, my body would have been smashed to pieces." He ended up in the recovery position used by paramedics when dealing with accident victims. "It was pure luck that I ended up rolling to a halt like that. I could easily have choked to death on blood or vomit if I'd ended up on my back. It was against all the odds that I survived. There were rocks all over and I was lucky to miss them all."

The former Army physical training instructor from Queensbury, near Bradford, West Yorkshire, who is a member of the Yorkshire Dales Hang-gliding and Paragliding Club, was also wearing a special backplate made of Kevlar, the material used in bullet-proof vests.

Mr Dolan was airlifted to hospital in Treviso, where surgeons inserted metal plates in his spine and took bone grafts from his pelvis.

Yahya Ahmed, consultant at Pinderfields, said: "We hope to begin active physiotherapy in the next few weeks to get him back walking again. He's very lucky to have the chance of walking, given the dreadful nature of his injuries."



Mr Dolan and his wife Liz after the accident. "I try not to think about how close I came to losing him," she said

Mr Dolan said: "I'm definitely the luckiest person on Earth. I couldn't wish for anything more than to be alive."

His wife Liz, 31, added: "I'm just thankful that he's alive. I try not to think about how close I came to losing him."

Dean Crosby, a former British champion and a fellow club member, said: "Pat is very lucky to be alive considering the height he fell from and the speed of his descent. An accident like that is extremely rare, almost a one-off. I

wouldn't say that paragliding is any more dangerous than any other sport. There is always an amount of danger which you can reduce by proper training. Perhaps we need more training abroad where the conditions are far worse."

Mr Dolan's escape is one of the more remarkable in recent years. In March 1995, Penny Roberts of Silsden, West Yorkshire, an experienced parachutist, hit a concrete runway in Florida at 50mph after her

main and reserve chutes tangled on a 13,500ft jump. She suffered several broken bones and was paralysed below the waist.

In April 1994, Des Moloney, 28, of Chobham, Surrey, fell 3,000ft from a plane being flown by his brother when his parachute ripped and opened only partially. He was dazed but suffered only cuts, bruises and whiplash when he landed on a grass verge near Sainsbury's in Colchester, Essex. Not too stunned to play

the wag, he told his brother: "Reports of my death are premature."

A 3ft-deep duck pond saved a New Zealand skydiver, Klint Freemantle, 22, who plunged 3,000ft in 1993 when both his parachutes failed to open. Mr Freemantle, after splashing down virtually without a scratch, said: "The first thing I did was stand up and shout 'Yes!'"

After his own near miss, Mr Dolan said he intended to take up gliding as a safer pastime.



From the glory days of TV's *Come Dancing*: Victor Sylvester takes the floor with Sylvia Birch in 1955

BBC pirouette saves last tango in Bournemouth

By RUTH GLEDHILL

THE sequin and sunlamp industries are safe. The determined smiles of ballroom dancers will be seen once more. The BBC has reprieved *Come Dancing*.

Britain's longest-running television show will come back for a 47th year in the autumn, after a deluge of letters and petitions followed the news that TV executives had lined it up for the axe.

In its glory days, the show has been hosted by a series of famous broadcasters, but ratings had fallen from 10 million two decades ago to 2.8 million last year. One BBC management source was quoted as saying: "People here feel that it has had its day. It has become a bit of a national joke rather than a national institution."

Dancers were already reeling from the shock of losing televised coverage of the British championships last year and blamed the low audience on the show's scheduling at 11.35 on Monday nights. Eric Morley, former head of the Mecca leisure empire, who has been associated with *Come Dancing* since he organised the original competition, said the show would go on again "thanks to pressure from the British public".

Writing in the latest *Dance News*, the dance competition world's weekly newspaper, he urges young supporters to attend recordings of the series at Bournemouth's international centre in May: "It is important that viewers do not get the impression that supporters of dance are all older people."

The ballroom show, first broadcast from the Ritz ballroom in Manchester in 1949, will be fronted by former

Generation Game hostess Rosemarie Ford, who is on her fourth series, and will be screened in September.

Ms Ford is following a line which began with the original presenter, Peter Dinklage — who moved up the ladder into BBC management — and has included Peter West (1959-72), Terry Wogan (1973-79) and Angela Rippon (1987-92), along with career stages for Michael Aspel, Judith Chalmers and David Jacobs.

The new series will be in a different format, with team matches between "modern" couples dancing waltz, foxtrot, tango and quickstep, and "Latin" couples dancing rumba, cha cha, samba, jive and paso doble. There will also be a formation dance team competition, and for the first time an individual award for winning couples undefeated in their team events, even where their team lost.

Teams from Germany, Sweden and Holland will be flown over and some of Britain's top professionals, such as Donnie Burns and Gaynor Fairweather, the world latin champions, will give demonstrations.

John Leach, associate editor of *Dance News*, said: "It is very good news for dancing generally. There was an outcry when it came off."

Bill Irvine, who teaches at south London's Starlight studio — and won 13 world professional titles with his wife Bobbie — has been involved with *Come Dancing* for 40 years, chiefly as a judge. He said: "It is wonderful that it will be shown again. The BBC moved it to the later time and it lost viewing figures and then when it lost viewing figures they decided to take it off."

Simon Betts, producer and director of the programme for ten years, said: "We will have the best amateur dancers in Europe competing."

He said the BBC had received "a tremendous amount of letters from all ages" and added: "There was talk of dropping *Come Dancing* but Alan Yentob, controller of BBC1, has kept faith with the dance community by bringing it back."

"We are very pleased. British dancers are the best in the world, so it is good that they are back and will be able to strut their stuff again on *Come Dancing*."

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6 HOME NEWS

Mawhinney paint-bombers told they face jail



Nicholas De Marco, left, who was acquitted of the attack on Dr Mawhinney, with Naveed Malik, Karen Doyle, Anthony Gard and Amanda Egbe

By LIN JENKINS

A TEACHER and three students were yesterday convicted for pelting Dr Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, with flour and paint and told they could be sent to prison. A fifth person was acquitted.

The magistrate rejected their claim that they were justified in attacking Dr Mawhinney as he made his way to a makeshift BBC television studio on Abingdon Green outside the Palace of Westminster after the State Opening of Parliament. Nicholas Evans, stipendiary magistrate sitting at Bow Street Magistrates' Court, said their argument that it would prevent him repeating remarks that could incite people to commit crimes of racial violence was one "no rational person" could accept.

Karen Doyle, 19, and Naveed Malik, 19, both student union officers at Kingsway College, north London, studying two A levels each, are suspended and could face

expulsion. Amanda Egbe, 20, reading philosophy at the University of North London, has been suspended for three months. Anthony Gard, 54, a teacher at Langston Primary School, Poplar, east London, has been given a final written warning and could face dismissal.

Nicholas De Marco, 29, president of the student union at Kingsway College until he was expelled earlier this year, who was said to have orchestrated the attack, was cleared of all three charges. Mr Evans said there was insufficient evidence against him.

The convicted four, all members of the Movement for Justice, a small group set up to campaign against the Asylum and Immigration Bill, admitted that they had deliberately targeted Dr Mawhinney. During their demonstration on November 15 they ignored the Chancellor Kenneth Clarke and other MPs as they left after the ceremony, saving their missiles for Dr Mawhinney.

Mr Evans said Dr Mawhinney and his

wife, Betty, who was also splattered, could have been injured if paint had hit them in an eye.

The four had been seen on television news footage throwing the missiles. Alan Duncan, parliamentary private secretary to Dr Mawhinney, had also been seen calling the police on a mobile telephone and trying to make a citizen's arrest.

Mr Evans said: "I make no observations as to the seriousness with which I regard this matter, save to say I cannot exclude the possibility that custody is the way of dealing with it." He adjourned sentencing to May 14.

Michael Schwarz, the defendant's solicitor, said it had been a political trial. He complained that the defence team was prevented by the magistrate from questioning Dr Mawhinney about allegedly playing the race card, which was "a key part of the defence".

The four, all from London, were given bail while pre-sentence reports were prepared.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Army saved from manpower crisis

The Army has been saved from a "catastrophic" manning shortage of 20,000 soldiers by the end of the century, after ministers reversed a number of policy decisions. General Sir Michael Rose, the Army's Adjutant General, said yesterday the shortage had become so catastrophic that by 2000 the Army would not have been able to fulfil obligations to the United Kingdom, Nato and the U.N.

Problems had arisen from the Government's Options for Change defence programme, the closure of recruiting offices and the loss of well-trained soldiers, he told the adjutant-general's annual conference in London. Provided the Army was able to recruit about 17,000 soldiers each year over the next three years, full manning levels would now be reached by the end of the century. There were hints that a junior leaders' scheme could be restored.

Ex-husband questioned

Detectives were questioning the former husband of Karen Skipper, who was murdered on the bank of the River Ely in Cardiff as she walked her two dogs, Philip Skipper was arrested early yesterday at Ferndale in the Rhondda Valley. The partially clothed body of Mrs Skipper, 34, was found on March 10. Her hands had been tied behind her back with a dog-lead. Tests showed she had been dragged through brambles and into the water where she was held under until she drowned. Police said yesterday that several witnesses were being interviewed again.

Two shot in attacks

Two men were shot in the legs in separate incidents in Merseyside early yesterday after gunmen burst into their homes. In the first attack, four or five men shot their victim inside his house in Bootle before fleeing. He underwent emergency surgery at Fazakerley Hospital, Liverpool. Half an hour later four masked men fired several shots into a man's legs in Anfield. He was treated at the Royal Liverpool Hospital. Police were unable to say if the two attacks were connected although early indications were that this was unlikely.

Nursery voucher rethink

Protests from private nursery schools have prompted a government U-turn allowing parents to use nursery vouchers throughout the summer. The Department for Education and Employment conceded that vouchers could be used beyond the state school term for children who went to private nurseries for only two or three days a week. Parents in the pilot areas of Norfolk and three London boroughs began using the vouchers yesterday.

Cranmer on computer

The Prayer Book Society, the traditionalist heart of the Church of England, has published the 1662 Book of Common Prayer on computer disk. The program allows clergy to choose appropriate hymns and readings for a Sunday and print them out in a ready-made service format. The society, which was founded to uphold Thomas Cranmer's language, said the software was "a splendid marriage of tradition and technology".

Monk admits assault

A Benedictine monk who admitted indecently assaulting a 13-year-old boy as he slept in a dormitory at Ampleforth College, North Yorkshire, was remanded on bail for a month for a probation report by magistrates at Malton yesterday. Father Bernard Green, 43, had taught history and was a housemaster for three years, but now gave his address as St Benet's Hall, a study retreat at St Giles, Oxford.

Home on the Thames

The Royal Academy is holding a competition for a new inhabited bridge across the Thames, spanning the river from Temple Gardens on the north bank to the London Weekend Television tower on the south. It would be London's first inhabited bridge since the houses on old London Bridge were demolished for reasons of health and safety in the 1750s, and the idea was warmly welcomed by John Gummer, the Environment Secretary.

Man walks into propeller

A passenger in a light aircraft was taken to hospital yesterday after he walked into the rotating propeller of the plane after it had made an emergency landing. The three-seater single-prop Cessna was flying from The Netherlands to Cheltenham when it made a safe landing in a field at Walkridge Farm near Basingstoke, Hampshire. Police said the passenger broke an arm and had severe neck lacerations. The injuries were not life-threatening. The pilot and passenger were thought to be British.

Fault stops Archers

A crucial episode of *The Archers* was interrupted by a technical fault five minutes into yesterday's lunchtime broadcast on Radio 4. The episode centred on a family argument over funeral arrangements for the character Guy Pemberton, who died from a heart attack on Friday. Listeners will have to wait until Sunday's omnibus edition to hear the outcome. The BBC blamed a fault in a digital broadcasting machine. Dr Thomas Stuttaford, page 11

Parents prosecute three

Three men denied killing a teenager yesterday in a rare private prosecution for murder. Neil Acourt, 20, and Luke Knight, 19, both from Eltham, southeast London, and Gary Dobson, 20, of Bromley, are accused over the death of Stephen Lawrence, 18, who is said to have been stabbed at a bus stop in Eltham on April 22, 1993. The prosecution at the Old Bailey has been brought by his parents, Neville and Doreen. The case continues later this week.

Parents of Cyprus tour guide ask Major for apology

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE parents of Louise Jensen, the Danish tour guide killed in Cyprus by three drunken British riflemen, have protested to the Prime Minister over the Army's failure to offer them compensation or an apology.

Poul and Anette Jensen are asking John Major to break the official silence after the conviction of the three members of the Royal Green Jackets and take action to convince them that "human dignity is still present among British values".

Miss Jensen was abducted by the soldiers in the resort of Ayia Napa in September 1994. She was then driven to a remote spot, sexually assaulted and bludgeoned to death with an army spade.

Allan Ford, 26, Justin Fowler, 27, and Jeremy Parnell, 23, were jailed for life at Larnaca District Court on March 29 for abduction, manslaughter and conspiracy to rape after an eight-month trial. The men's legal costs, which were paid by the Army, are estimated at £1 million. At their home in the Danish village of Hirtshals, the dead



Louise Jensen: killed with an army spade

girl's parents have waited in vain since the conviction for any communication from the British Army.

Amid mounting criticism of the conduct of troops on Cyprus, Brigadier Arthur Denaro, Chief of Staff and Deputy Commander of British Forces on the island, denied that the Army had been on trial and said he was proud of disciplinary standards. Mrs and Mrs Jensen have appointed Morten Larsen, who leads a family support group, to

represent them in their fight. Mr Larsen said yesterday that seeking compensation was only a means of forcing the Army to admit responsibility.

In a letter to John Major, he says: "The world has lost a wonderful human being. The British Army and the British Government have lost a tremendous amount of respect around the world. The Army and Government may retrieve some of its dignity by offering compensation to Louise's family. Given a choice between all the money in the world and having Louise back alive, surely the family would choose to retain their daughter and sister. But they do not have that choice. However you and the British Government have a choice and the possibility to ease the family's pain."

If neither an apology nor compensation were offered, Mr Larsen added, the couple would take legal action about civil action in the courts. He said: "The Army is claiming to have no responsibility. It is out of proportion that the Army can pay legal costs of up to £1 million on behalf of the soldiers without recognising a partial responsibility for this horrible crime."



The Jensens: they want the Army to admit responsibility for soldiers' actions

The Ministry of Defence pointed out that Major General Alexander Harley, commander of British forces in Cyprus, had written a letter of condolence to the family.

In a letter to *The Times* earlier this month General Sir Michael Rose, Adjutant General, said the Army regarded ill-discipline with the "utmost seriousness" and was "deeply ashamed" that soldiers should have perpetrated "such a savage and despicable crime". The soldiers' lawyers are to

appeal against their convictions on a technicality. They claim they were not properly arrested when they were stopped at a police roadblock two hours after the killing and that their clothing and the spade, which were stained with Louise's blood, should not have been produced as evidence. They also claim that the soldiers were so drunk, they could not have specifically intended to kill Miss Jensen, proof of which is required for manslaughter charges under

Cypriot law. A spokesman for the MoD said: "If a claim were submitted it would be looked at sensitively and sympathetically. If there is a legal liability on the part of the MoD compensation may be paid."

Last night Mrs Jensen said: "We want the Army to say they are responsible for the actions of their soldiers. We are not doing this because of money."

Leading article, page 19

Mother mourns two sons who died within hours

By KATE ALDERSON

A MOTHER was treated in hospital for shock yesterday after the death of her baby from suspected meningitis only hours after her four-year-old son had died from injuries he suffered in a hit-and-run accident.

Angela Bretherton, 26, was with her son Jamie in the intensive-care unit of Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool, on Monday night when Anthony, aged eight weeks, was suddenly taken ill at home in Toxteth.

A childminder called the emergency services in the early hours of yesterday morning and attempts were made to revive the baby. He was taken to Royal Liverpool University Hospital with suspected meningitis and pronounced dead at 2.02am.

The body was then taken to Alder Hey hospital where Ms Bretherton had been mourning the death of her eldest son. He was struck by a BMW on a pedestrian crossing in Toxteth on Monday afternoon and suffered multiple injuries.

A spokesman for Alder Hey Hospital said the baby's cause of death would be confirmed after tests. "The child died of a severe infection that could

have been meningococcal disease. We are taking the appropriate preventative measures for those health staff involved in assisting in the attempted resuscitation."

Ms Bretherton, who has two daughters aged one and five, left hospital yesterday after being treated for shock and was being comforted by relatives.

An officer of Merseyside Police said: "It is unbelievable that so much tragedy could have hit one family in one day."

Police are still searching for the driver of the car that struck the boy as he crossed the road hand-in-hand with a girl aged three. They were accompanied by his childminder, the woman who was caring for the baby when he became ill. The girl was discharged from hospital after treatment for minor injuries.

A spokeswoman for Merseyside Police said: "The boy was thrown on to the bonnet and he seems to have dragged the little girl with him."

A BMW was found abandoned near by. A man aged 19 who walked into a police station later was released after questioning.

Lexicon celebrates calypso English

By ALAN HAMILTON

THERE is a good deal more to Caribbean English than reggae, calypso and dub. There is also *ad hoc*, *humgrumshious* and a few other expressions best not explored too closely in a family newspaper.

Sprees boys will be in goat heaven and kiddie kingdom to learn that the Oxford University Press, which monitors the Queen's English in all its variations, has produced the first dictionary of the *lingua franca* of the anglophone West Indies, where 55 million people claim a vibrant brand of English as their mother tongue. The dictionary, edited

Dr Richard Allsop, a retired reader in English language and linguistics at the University of the West Indies, reveals that the above sentence means that fun-loving chaps will be in a state of bliss over the publication. They may even pull on their *puss boots* and take *taxi eleven* to their nearest bookstore.

Puss boots are soft-soled shoes, *taxi eleven* — from the bongo call *legs eleven* — is the Jamaican equivalent of shanks's pony. *Ad hoc* means making it up as you go along and *humgrumshious* — a word of rather more obscure etymology — means rough and crude. A *sprankious* (five-ly and good-looking) lad

might find it *pestorous* (irritating) to be told that he was looking *odsocky* (wearing ill-matched clothing). If he happened to be an *antiman*, *antime man* or *party man* (homosexual) he might well be *bazodi* (stunned).

Dr Allsop, speaking from his home in Barbados yesterday, said: "Caribbean English, which came from a meeting of African languages and the first English slave traders and plantation owners, remains extremely vigorous. This is the first attempt to bring together the variations in language throughout the region."

Dr Allsop admitted that dictionaries of a living tongue

were inevitably out of date. Since sending his manuscript to press he has picked up *cornrip*, Barbadian slang for a bawling woman and a corruption of the standard English common reproach.

Dr Allsop, speaking from his home in Barbados yesterday, said: "Caribbean English, which came from a meeting of African languages and the first English slave traders and plantation owners, remains extremely vigorous. This is the first attempt to bring together the variations in language throughout the region."

Dr Allsop admitted that dictionaries of a living tongue

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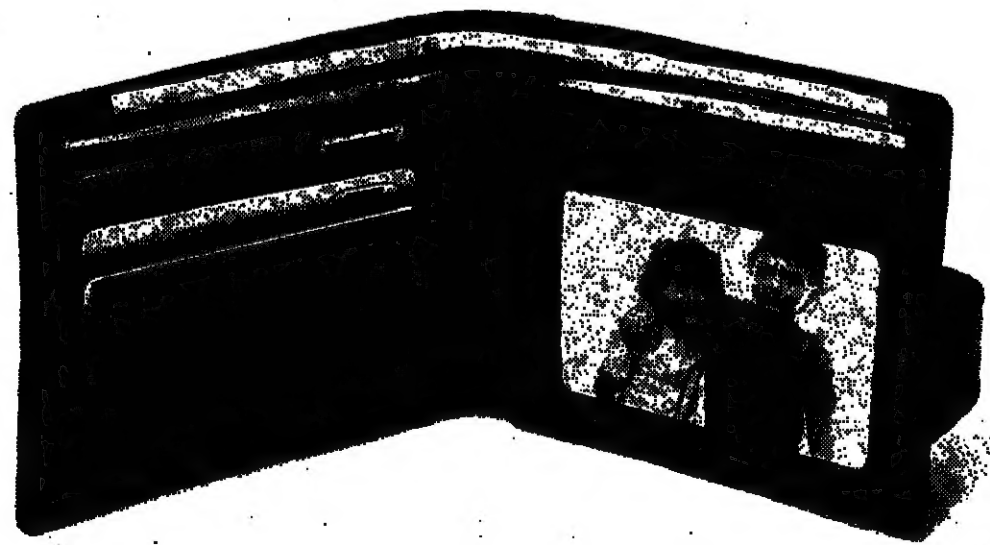
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Inquest verdict of accidental death on terrorist who was 'author of his own misfortune'

Bus bomber was plotting as the IRA talked peace

By ADRIAN LEE

AN IRA terrorist who died when the bomb he was carrying exploded prematurely on a London bus had already planned a similar device and was hiding enough equipment to wage a concerted campaign on mainland Britain.

Edward O'Brien had been active in England for at least 18 months and had been stockpiling explosives and selecting his targets throughout the IRA ceasefire.

His inquest was told yesterday that O'Brien, 21, from Gorey, County Wexford, was an experienced terrorist who had also planted a bomb in a telephone kiosk in the West End of London three days before he was killed. It was discovered and defused.

Dr Paul Knapman, the

Westminster Coroner, said: "One would extend sympathy to his family, but it is clear that, while embarking on this potentially murderous crime, he was the author of his own misfortune." He recorded a verdict of accidental death.

After O'Brien's death, police found Semtex, timers, detonators and a prepared bomb at his bedsit in south London. The equipment was typical of that used by the IRA.

"It was a complete find of bomb-making equipment," Detective Superintendent William Emerson, of the Metropolitan Police's anti-terrorist branch, said. "It could have sustained a significant bombing attack on the citizens of London."

He said that as early as August 1994, O'Brien was acting as an agent of the IRA

on the mainland. From October 1995, he was preparing a stockpile of Semtex, timers, detonators, guns and ammunition. He was drawing up his plans during the ceasefire and President Clinton's visit to Belfast and Dublin last November and December.

It is clear that at the time Edward O'Brien was collecting his murderous equipment and planning his criminal activities," Mr Emerson said, adding that it was duplicitous for the IRA to have planned atrocities during the ceasefire.

O'Brien died at about 10.30pm on February 19 as he stood, carrying his bomb in a sports bag, at the foot of the stairs on a number 171 bus in the Aldwych. Dr Iain West, a Home Office pathologist, said O'Brien's legs were blown off by the explosion and he suf-



Edward O'Brien had been stockpiling equipment for 18 months when he blew up himself and a London bus. Among the injured was Paris Valentine, a passenger who suffered only perforated eardrums and minor cuts. It was, said the coroner, a remarkable escape

fered "blast lung", the force of the bomb ripping his lungs to shreds. He would have died almost instantly. The explosion also injured the driver and two passengers. There had been 37 people on the bus at various times as it travelled from south London to Holborn.

Detective Superintendent Emerson said a Walther 9mm pistol, bearing O'Brien's fin-

gerprints, was found in the debris. A Jaguar sports bag, recovered from the dead man's flat in Lewisham, was one of two bought at the same time from Argos in Catford, south London. The first bag had been used to conceal the bomb in the telephone kiosk in Charing Cross Road three days earlier. Warnings about the device, including one call to Buckingham Palace, were

imprecise but a diligent member of the public had found it. Mr Emerson said O'Brien was born in Dublin and moved to Co Wexford with his family. He was once employed as a baker but had been living in London since August 1994 and was integrated into the local community, playing for a pub football team and drinking regularly at clubs and pubs. He worked fulltime as a

labourer. Commander John Grieve, head of the terrorist branch, said: "I am convinced he was an active, committed, fairly experienced terrorist who had been on the mainland since at least August 1994. He had been involved in Provisional IRA activity from then and through the ceasefire."

Allen Fereday, a scientific officer at a forensic explosives laboratory, told the inquest at Westminster Coroner's Court how he had analysed the bomb-making equipment found at O'Brien's bedsit. It consisted of 15 kg of Semtex explosive in four blocks; 16 one-hour timer units; four three-hour units, one incendiary device with a ten-hour timer and four electronic detonators. It was, he said, typical of the equipment used in IRA devices.

Mr Fereday said the explosion caught O'Brien at knee level, consistent with him carrying the bomb in a hold-all. There were a number of possible reasons for the premature explosion. The most likely were that the device had been incorrectly armed; poorly constructed, possibly causing a short-circuit; or had a faulty mechanism.

Less likely was that the bomber had made a timing miscalculation or that he had simply stumbled. It was possible that interference from an electrical device, such as a personal stereo or a mobile telephone, had triggered the device.

The coroner praised bystanders who went to the aid of the casualties at a scene of "devastation and enormous disruption". Paris Valentine, a solicitor who was travelling on the bus, said: "I heard a loud thud. I was listening to my Walkman then I heard a huge piercing sound going through my mind and everything became still. I felt the bus grind to a halt and I was in complete darkness with sparks of light. I was losing consciousness but willed myself to stand up and get out of the bus." He suffered a perforated eardrum and

minor cuts but was otherwise unhurt. The coroner described his escape as "quite remarkable".

Also injured was the bus driver, Bob Newitt, 49, of New Cross, London, who is deaf as a result of his injuries, and Rolf Hobart, 38, of Torquay, who suffered facial injuries. Another injured passenger, Brendan Woolhead, from Dublin, was initially a police suspect but had no connection with the explosion. He has total amnesia about what happened that night.

An off-duty policeman, PC Miles Manning, described an "almighty explosion" and what appeared to be a "bite mark" missing from the centre of the bus. "It was one of the loudest noises I have ever heard and there was an orange flash. I was thrown forwards a few yards."

He ran to help and, fearing a secondary blast, took out his warrant card and warned rescuers to stand back. A taxi driver, an American tourist and a solicitor, who had been drinking in a pub, all tried to help. They are to be cited by police for bravery awards.

The coroner said: "We have heard a story of ordinary people in London who showed their inner resources in response to such outrages."



PC Manning feared a second explosion

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THIS August Bank Holiday, Dover Castle sees a return to one of the most important dates in our nation's history. The eve of D-Day, 1944. Hundreds of British servicemen, German prisoners of war and military vehicles will be re-enacting the movements that were to signal the beginning of the end of the war as the allied forces prepared to land in Normandy. The command room will be functioning at full speed, dispatches will be arriving, 25lb guns will be loaded, lookout stations will be manned. It'll be just like Dover Castle was in the old days. A frightening place to be. Only this time, your chances of returning home safely, you'll be pleased to learn, are 100%.



THE Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment have had rather an eventful few centuries. Since 1572, when a Tudor company first travelled across the Channel to help the Dutch fight against Spain, they've served in the Napoleonic War, the Crimean War, the Boer War, the First World War. The list goes on. As does the number of medals they've received. 56 Victoria Crosses, no less. With the use of special effects and stunning sets, we've recreated life on board a Regiment ship. As you walk through lifelike displays, you'll get some idea of what it was like to be a marine three centuries ago. You will also experience the atmosphere of WWI trenches and see the very ball that was kicked into no-man's-land by the East Surreys.

Although a fortified settlement since the Iron Age, Dover Castle has only been in its existent form since the late 12th century. It was in 1179 when Henry II's builder, Maurice the Engineer, began the construction of the large rectangular Keep which is the magnificent centrepiece of the castle. The rough masonry walls measure between 5.2 and 6.4 metres in thickness. However, impenetrability wasn't the only prerequisite. The Keep was, after all, to be home to the King on occasion. Hence the splendid royal apartments on the upper storey. Encircled by a mural gallery and featuring elaborately decorated window embrasures, they provide a more grandiose contrast to the rooms beneath. Even the Chapel upstairs is considerably larger and more ornate than its lower equivalent.



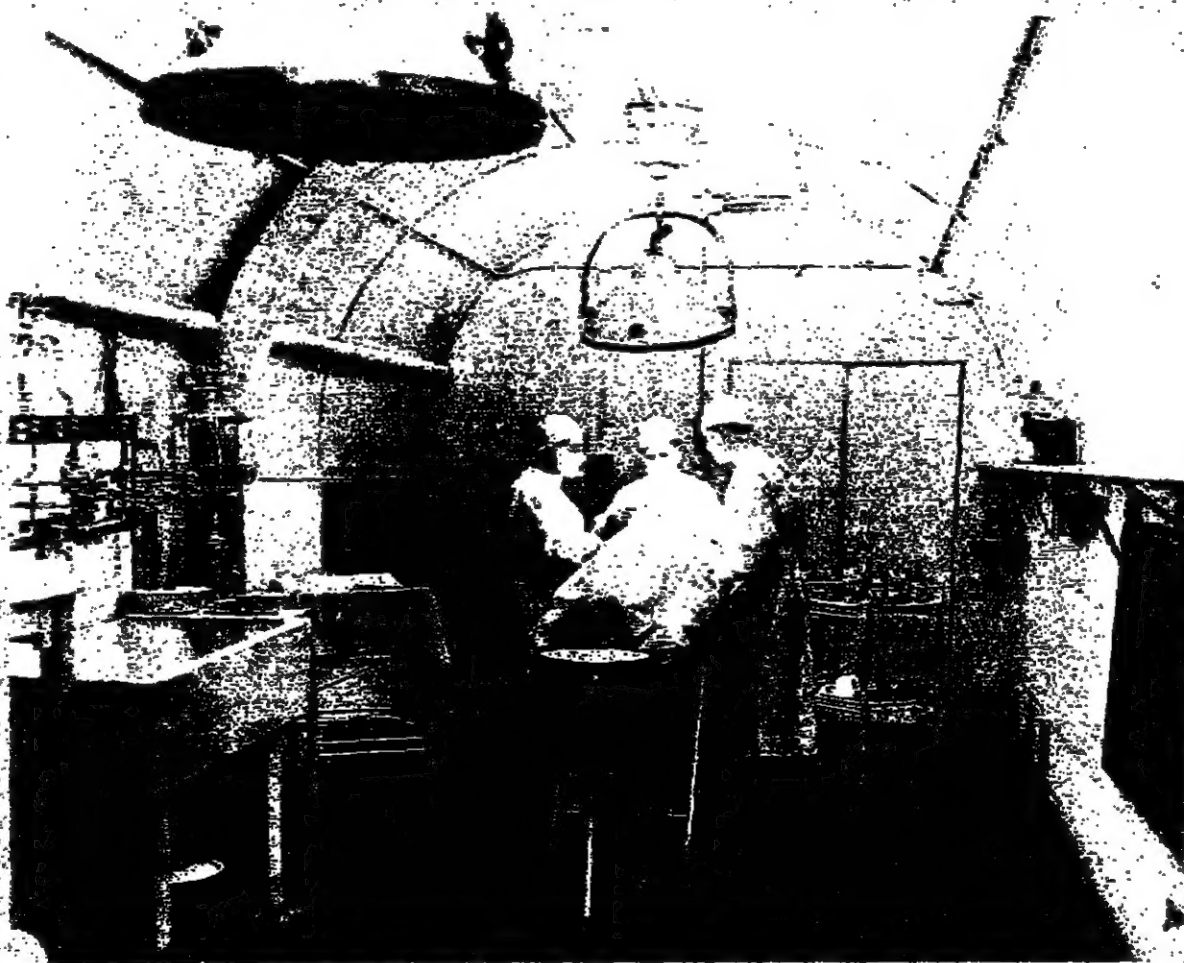
MANY people know that Desmond Llewellyn played the part of Q in the Bond movies. Fewer people, perhaps, are aware of the fact that Q was playing the part of one CHARLES FRASER-SMITH: the man who was the inspiration for Fleming's shrewd inventor. Based within the Clothing Department of the Ministry of Supply, Fraser-Smith appeared to be nothing more than an unremarkable civil servant. But he was actually the mastermind in one of Britain's most secret projects, his inventions playing a major part in the Second World War victory. The *Live and Let Spy* exhibition at Dover Castle takes you into the world of the secret agent. You'll see a number of Fraser-Smith's devices, like the shaving brush that carried some photographic film of German installations. The seemingly innocuous jacket button, in reality a tiny compass.



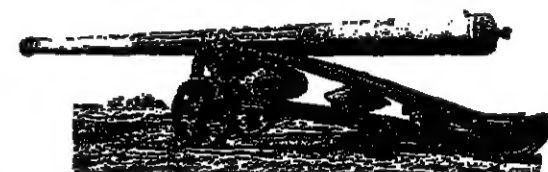
And the playing card with, believe it or not, a map hidden inside it. There's even an interactive section which determines whether you've got exactly what it takes in order to become a leading secret agent.

IN

THE SECOND WORLD WAR, DOVER CASTLE WAS THE SCENE OF MANY TOP SECRET OPERATIONS. THE ONE ON SAM FLETCHER'S LEFT LEG, FOR INSTANCE.



The Underground Hospital at Dover Castle.



BURIED in the white cliffs of Dover, beneath the most celebrated major fortress in Britain's history, are The Secret Wartime Tunnels. Open to the public since 1990, having come off the original official secrets list four years earlier, they were home to the Underground Hospital. This hospital,



which has been reconstructed in authentic detail gives you some insight into the experiences of Second World War casualties. A vast amount of the original

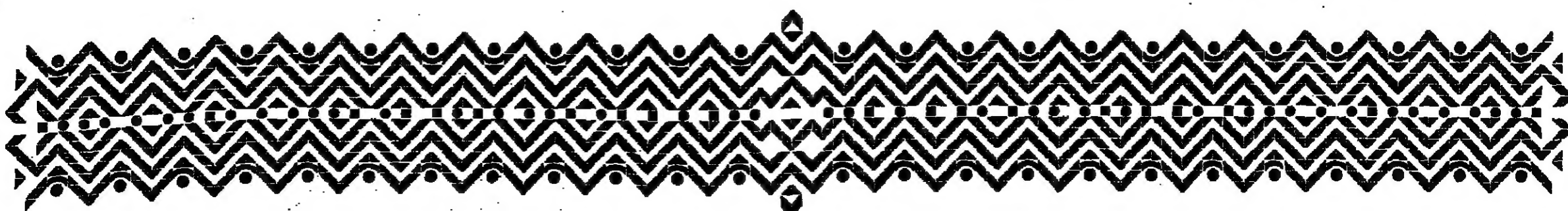
furnishings and equipment have been collected and reinstalled. Home Front propaganda lines the walls, including the famous 'Careless Talk Costs Lives' poster, 1940's cigarette packets, old newspapers and a half-played game of draughts rest on tables. The wartime flavour is enhanced by the soundtrack which plays on your guided tour of the Tunnels. You'll hear the conversations of hospital staff and the sound of air raids and bombings. There's even that distinctive hospital smell to greet you as you enter the operating theatre, followed by the nasal 'delight' of boiled cabbage emanating from the kitchens.

DURING World War II, when many British women and children found refuge in London's tube stations, many British soldiers were hiding in an underground system too: *The Secret Wartime Tunnels* beneath Dover Castle. A maze of passages, offices and hospital dormitories which served as a military base for Churchill's troops. It was here that one Vice-Admiral Ramsay masterminded the evacuation of Dunkirk. And here that hundreds of casualties of war received the finest of medical attention. You can experience their sights, sounds and even smells at Dover Castle. To find out more information on English Heritage and our role in preserving the nation's significant buildings, please call 0171 973 3434 or visit any one of our 400 sites.



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Ulster elections only delay choices that cannot be avoided

President Bill Clinton has turned into an increasingly supportive ally of John Major on Northern Ireland. This surfaced in an improbable way during Mr Clinton's meeting with Tony Blair at the White House last Friday. When the president said that Mr Blair had acted in a "very statesmanlike" way over Northern Ireland, he has not only giving the Labour leader a public boost, but he was also being helpful to Mr Major.

Some of Mr Clinton's advisers had been concerned that Labour might seek to exploit the Government's vulnerability by allying with

the Unionists over an amendment to the Bill, published yesterday, for elections on May 30. But Mr Blair assured the president that, however much he wanted to bring down the Tories, there was no way that Labour would indulge in such wrecking tactics over Northern Ireland. Mr Clinton was relieved.

After the differences of a year ago between London and Washington over the treatment of Gerry Adams, there is now a much closer understanding over Northern Ireland. This partly follows a proposal made to Mr Clinton by Sir John Kerr, the British Ambassador in Washington, shortly after his arrival

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

last summer. He suggested that, having met Mr Adams, the president should meet all those who receive more votes than Sinn Féin in Northern Ireland elections. Mr Clinton agreed. He has accordingly met David Trimble twice and Ian Paisley once. This, coupled with advice from the American Embassy in London, has helped to change attitudes among Mr Clinton's advisers — though Vice-President Al Gore has always sought to ensure that the Unionist case is heard. The

end of the IRA ceasefire has also put some Washington supporters of Mr Adams on the defensive.

Mr Clinton was persuaded that the British suggestion of elections was a necessary step to ensure that the Unionists participate in the all party negotiations on June 10, despite the misgivings of the Dublin Government and opposition of the SDLP. He has appealed to all parties to become involved.

Yesterday's Bill and the accompanying paper on ground rules for the talks are intended to keep open all options by offering wide reassurance. The elections will both provide delegates from whom participants in the all-party talks can

be chosen and create a deliberative forum, in effect a talking shop with no real powers. The Bill provides that referendums may, with parliamentary approval, be held on any matter relating to Northern Ireland. The Government is still not persuaded of the case for a referendum on the renunciation of violence, as urged by John Hume. But the door has not been closed. Sinn Féin can, and probably will, participate in the elections, but the Government paper reiterates that their participation in negotiations "requires the unequivocal restoration of the ceasefire of August

1994". While the IRA decision on a ceasefire is the main uncertainty ahead of June 10, several other questions remain unresolved. Who, for example, will be the "independent chairperson" handling the sensitive strand two discussions on relationships within the island of Ireland? There are suggestions that Senator George Mitchell is willing to become involved again.

The familiar question of decommissioning of arms will also have to be addressed at the start of the talks. The announcement of elections masked the decision to drop the previous "Washington three" precondition that decommissioning

must start. But this only put off a decision. Everything now is aimed at getting the talks going with all parties involved. Sinn Féin will also have to decide whether it accepts the Mitchell Commission's insistence on an absolute commitment to democracy and non-violence. These choices cannot be avoided indefinitely. On June 10, or soon afterwards, the London and Dublin Governments, and the Clinton Administration, will have to face up to the incompatibility of the aims and attitudes of the main participants.

PETER RIDDELL

Mandelson tours Far East courtesy of Barclays Bank

By Andrew Pierce and Patricia Tehan

BARCLAYS BANK financed a ten-day trip to South-East Asia by Peter Mandelson, one of Tony Blair's closest allies, to reassure companies in the region that their investments in Britain would be safe under new Labour.

The trip, the first the bank has sponsored for an individual MP, came in the same week that BZW, Barclays' investment bank, hosted a reception for the Labour leader during his visit to New York. But Mr Mandelson, MP for Hartlepool, had given a different emphasis to the trip before he went away. He told his local newspaper that he was flying east to try to generate more investment from South-East Asia in Hartlepool, where unemployment is almost twice the national average.

His explanation mystified Barclays, which is paying the estimated \$6,000 bill for the trip to Japan, Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore.

A spokeswoman for Barclays, the one-time *bière noire* of the Labour Left because of its investment in

South Africa during the apartheid era, said: "The trip had nothing to do with Hartlepool. The only connection we have with Hartlepool is a branch in the High Street."

Before he left for South-East Asia, at the start of the Easter recess, Mr Mandelson told the *Hartlepool Mail*: "We must step up our efforts to promote the town and I am pleased to announce that during Easter I am travelling to Japan, Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore to beat the drum for investment in Hartlepool."

Far from paying Mr Mandelson's expenses to extol the virtues of Hartlepool, the bank had invited him to act as an unofficial ambassador for Tony Blair. Andrew MacThomas, Barclays head of public affairs, said in a letter to the MP that the purpose was: "To discuss trade and investment under a Labour government with particular reference to companies with direct interests in Britain."

In the letter, dated March 29, Mr MacThomas said that Barclays agreed to the visit as a number of its customers in

the Far East could be affected by a potential change of government in Britain.

Barclays declined to say who had issued the invitation to Mr Mandelson, whose frontbench portfolio is the Civil Service not inward investment. Last night the bank said that the visit was part of a programme of contact with politicians.

Martin Taylor, the Eton-educated chief executive of Barclays, is an acquaintance of Mr Blair. He approved the visit, which was organised by BZW, Derek Scott, a BZW economist and part-time adviser to Mr Blair, is believed to have helped to organise Mr Blair's Wall Street gathering.

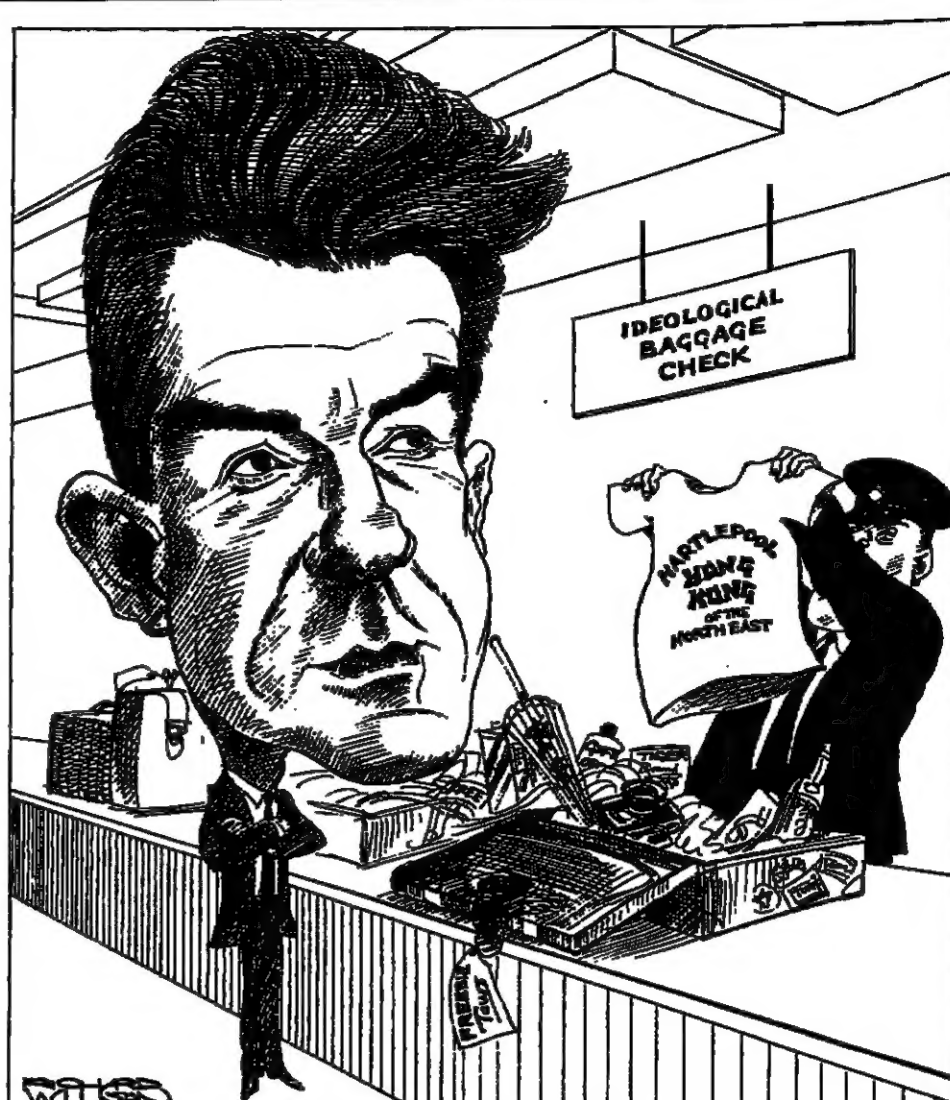
Mr Mandelson flew from London to Tokyo on April 6, staying at the Imperial Hotel. He went on to Seoul on April 9, staying at the Hotel Shilla, visiting Hyundai and Daewoo. Mr Mandelson reached Hong Kong on Thursday April 11, staying at the Conrad Hotel, leaving on April 14 for Singapore. He arrived back in London yesterday.

In the Register of MPs' interests Mr Mandelson declares that he is parliamentary adviser to the Association of Civil Servants. He will have to log his trip in the next register.

The bank spokeswoman said the visit had been arranged because Barclays had many customers there who wanted to know about investment prospects under a Labour government. "It is the first time we have done it," she said. "We do not have MPs as consultants or advisers."

Mr Mandelson had been chosen because customers had exacting questions. "We wanted to send someone who could answer them." "The final cost was not yet known because Mr Mandelson had not submitted his expenses."

Mr Mandelson said in a prepared statement that the knowledge he had gained about the Asian economic miracle had been enormously valuable. "It was a real eye-opener. I was particularly pleased to reassure potential investors in Britain about the excellent business prospects in Britain under a Labour government."



Sinn Féin warned over late ceasefire

By Arthur Leathley
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SINN FÉIN leaders were told last night that they may be excluded from the forthcoming all-party talks even if the IRA declares a ceasefire.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, increased pressure on the IRA to end violence now by saying that a last-minute ceasefire might be too late. Sinn Féin has been told that it will be excluded from talks starting on June 10 unless an "unequivocal restoration" of the ceasefire is announced, although it can stand in the May 30 elections to the peace forum.

Unionists are worried that Sinn Féin could enter the talks if a ceasefire is announced only days before June 10. However, Sir Patrick emphasised last night that the announcement needed to be made soon, saying: "It would be increasingly hard to persuade participants that this was unequivocal the closer to the 'off' it is declared."

Sir Patrick, who was announcing legislation to set up the talks and elections to the peace forum, was optimistic that all parties would join. "I think there are more sensible grounds for being hopeful than for a very long time."

A Bill will be rushed through Parliament by next week to enable the election of 110 representatives to the forum, from which negotiators will be selected for the talks. Sinn Féin made no initial response to the draft Bill.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to health ministers and the Prime Minister; private notices; questions on Aids tests; statements on SSE and Commons business; Browne's resignation; second reading: Education (Student Loans) Bill, Lord's amendments; proposed widening of M1; the Lords debate including fish stock conservation and management; Defamation Bill, report.

TODAY in the Commons: backbench debate: Trade and Industry questions; rail privatisation; In the Lords: policies to cut unemployment; Environment Bill; Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill, committee; Disabled Persons and Carers (Short-Term Breaks) Bill, second reading.

Labour accused of media 'sycophancy'

VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY accused Labour of "sycophantic devotion" to large media groups yesterday after it sought to relax planned restrictions on newspaper holdings in broadcasting companies (James Landale writes).

The Broadcasting Bill, which came up for its second reading in the Commons, would allow newspaper groups with less than 20 per cent of the national market to bid for ITV licences. The limit is designed to prevent any one group dominating the market. However, Labour said that the figure was arbitrary and unreasonable because it

would prevent the left-leaning Mirror Group newspapers from holding a licence. Jack Cunningham, the Shadow National Heritage Secretary, argued for a 25 per cent limit.

Mrs Bottomley accused Labour of trying to rig the regulations and putting vested interests above those of the viewers and readers. "The Labour Party has lurched from paranoid terror of large media groups to sycophantic devotion towards them," she said. "The Government would be 'relentless in exposing the cosy deals that Labour have dreamt up to please their friends'."

Worried Tories urge Major to talk with Goldsmith

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

SENIOR Tories urged John Major yesterday to authorise talks with Sir James Goldsmith on an agreement that would persuade him to withdraw his threat to field 600 pro-referendum candidates at the general election.

They say that unless the Government does a deal with Sir James his Referendum Party will take enough votes to make defeat certain. They want Mr Major to look sympathetically at the billionaire financier's call for all-party talks on a possible

referendum on Britain's relations with Europe.

Senior Tories are citing the 1,272 votes secured by the UK Independence Party in last week's Staffordshire South East by-election. They say that if that were repeated elsewhere the Tory majorities in more than 20 seats would be wiped out.

Yesterday Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, a former deputy party chairman and a confidant of Mr Major, became the first leading Tory to go public with a call for "dialogue" with Sir James, although he was reflecting the views of some Tory MPs worried that the Referendum Party could tip the balance against them at the election. They have been persuaded not to speak out for fear of raising the new party's profile.

Lord Archer said that the Tory party leadership should have a "dialogue" with Sir James. He told *The Times*: "In spite of the excellent deal

done by John Major at Maastricht, the anti-Maastricht candidate at South East Staffordshire still got 1,270 votes. Nobody believes they were Labour people who were unhappy with Mr Blair. It was an anti-government vote."

"James Goldsmith has £20 million to spend and is a charismatic figure. What he is going to achieve is letting in a Labour government that will eventually sign up to a social chapter and a federalist Europe. He is letting in Tony Blair, a man we believe to be committed to a single currency. We should be talking to him and asking him if he understands what he is doing."

He added: "We should remember what happened in the 1992 presidential election in America. President Bush did not want to talk to Ross Perot. He ended up with a big share of the vote and helped to remove Mr Bush from the White House."

NHS criticised over £100m computers

A SCHEME to introduce computers in NHS hospitals to improve patient services has cost more than £100 million and failed to provide the expected benefits (Nigel Williamson writes).

A highly critical report from a public spending watchdog says that eight years after the start of the scheme, only 13 of the 260 acute NHS hospitals have integrated computer systems providing up-to-the-minute information on the results of medical tests, waiting list and other vital data. The NHS Executive had intended all hospitals to be running the system by April

1995. However, the National Audit Office found that pilot schemes had been plagued by delays and a failure to make sufficient savings. Particular problems had occurred at Nottingham, Kidderminster and Darlington hospitals.

Alan Langlands, the NHS chief executive, is certain to face tough questioning from the Public Accounts Committee over the report next month. MPs will want to know why by last year the schemes had only achieved cost savings of £3.3 million and why the NHS Executive has still not completed its own evaluation of the project.

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At a Service Near You

Ruth Gledhill, religious affairs correspondent of *The Times*, visited nearly 200 places of worship for the series in Weekend. At your service, and this book is a collection of 63 of those engaging articles.

Not quite the ecclesiastical equivalent of *The Good Pub Guide*, but Gledhill does assess the quality of the leadership, architecture, sermon, music, liturgy, after-service care and spiritual high at the churches she visits.

She describes the atmosphere, the sort of people who attend, the style of the worship, the quality of preaching and anything that particularly strikes her, even the coffee.

As the daughter of an Anglican clergyman, Gledhill has been attending church regularly since childhood and the experience of visiting so many has had an impact on her own faith.

"I began the series as a churchgoing Anglican with fairly traditionalist views," she says. "The experience has made me more liberal in belief and more open to evangelical styles of worship, in particular the joy and movement that comes with some of the best spiritual songs."

Ruth believes churches are more than places of worship. They are also community centres in a world where neighbourhood communities are vanishing. They provide an oasis of peace in a noisy environment. The best churches preach faith as the foundation for true healing and happiness and impart to her the sense of God's presence.

At a Service Near You makes enjoyable reading. Anyone who wants to find out about a church in an area they are visiting, or simply curious about local churches, will find it extremely helpful.

Readers can get a copy of *At a Service Near You: British Churches - The Good, the Bad and the Ugly* for only £6.49 (normal price £7.99) including postage and packing and with an inserted book plate signed by the author.

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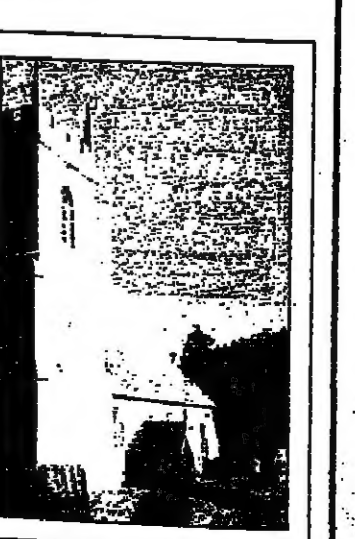
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Doctors give hope of breakthrough in cancer therapy

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A NEW weapon against cancer that could prove effective for many of the commonest forms of the disease has begun patient trials, scientists announced yesterday.

The treatment, based on blocking the growth of malignant cells instead of destroying them, has excited scientists who have spent 15 years developing it. It is being tested on lung cancer patients and, if successful, trials will be extended to other common cancers.

Researchers from the Imperial Cancer Research Fund described the start of tests on patients as a landmark. Professor John Smyth, director of the fund's clinical oncology unit at Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, said: "We can't avoid being excited by this. We believe the science is extremely strong and we are optimistic, but we are at the first stage. We desperately need entirely new approaches

if we are to make a major difference for patients with a number of different types of cancer, particularly the common cancers."

The treatment is being used first for sufferers of small-cell lung cancer, which accounts for a quarter of all cases of lung cancer and causes nearly 10,000 deaths a year in Britain.

Professor Smyth said there had been virtually no improvement in survival after lung cancer in the past decade despite the development of treatments to improve quality of life. Chemotherapy is highly effective in eradicating the cancer cells but the disease returns in more than 90 per cent of cases and the drugs do not work a second time. The new treatment would be used as a follow-up to initial chemotherapy to prevent the cancer cells re-growing.

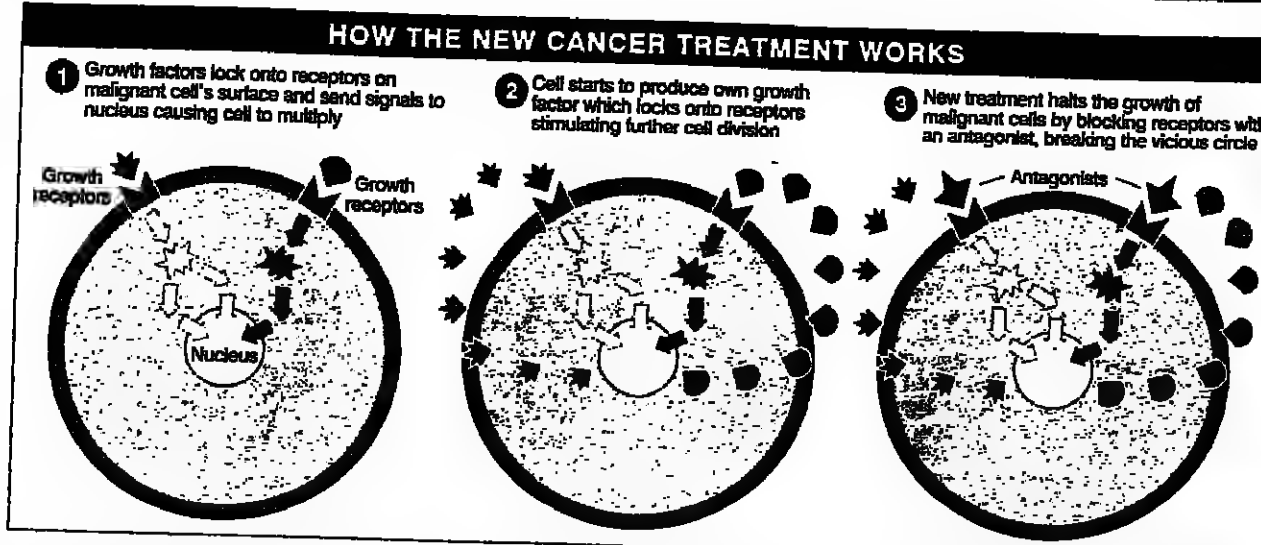
In small-cell lung cancer, the malignant cells produce

hormonal growth factors called neuropeptides which cause the cells to multiply out of control. They do this by locking on to receptors on the cell's surface and sending signals to the cell nucleus.

Work led by Dr Enrique Rozengurt at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's laboratory in London has shown that the receptors can be blocked with antagonists, which prevent the growth factors from working and stop multiplication of the cancer cells and the growth of the tumour.

Dr Rozengurt said: "We have identified a group of antagonists that can block every type of growth factor with a particular type of signal. The vicious circle is interrupted." An important question, however, is what effect the antagonists have on healthy cells.

The first clinical trials, which began in February,



involve a handful of patients and will determine how treatment with the best antagonist for lung cancer is tolerated and the optimum dose. Later trials will compare the new approach with existing treatments. It will be three to five years before scientists know whether it is effective. Laboratory studies suggest the same antagonist may be effective against cancer of the bowel and pancreas because the same family of growth factors may be involved.

Professor Smyth said: "There are many types of receptors on the surfaces of the cells of different types of cancer. There are also many types of growth factor. It may be possible to develop antagonists for them, too."

Nutritionist says Chinese food is recipe for healthy breasts

WOMEN may be able to avoid breast cancer by eating Chinese food, scientists were told yesterday.

Soy protein used in oriental cooking contains chemical compounds that appear to mimic the action of the widely used breast cancer drug Tamoxifen.

Dr Helen Wiseman, a nutritionist at King's College London, said that maybe why people in Japan and China have such low rates of breast, colon and prostate cancer. It could also explain why

people who consume large amounts of soy products have a low incidence of heart disease. Tamoxifen is also believed to prevent heart disease and osteoporosis.

Dr Wiseman suggested at a meeting of the Biochemical Society at Liverpool University that oriental food might help to protect some women against breast cancer.

Soya beans, soya milk and other soy products contain bioactive substances called isoflavonoids. Like Tamoxifen, they may stop the

female hormone oestrogen acting on the breast, where it can cause cancer.

Isoflavonoids are also potent antioxidants, which may be another reason why they protect against cancer and heart disease.

Dr Wiseman told the meeting that work has started on ways to enrich soya products to improve their health-giving properties. "If all goes well, women at risk of breast cancer, for example, could choose to eat these foods as a supplement to drugs."



The Pembertons: Guy, Caroline and Simon (Hugh Dickson, Sara Coward and Peter Wingfield)

Everyday story of a superdrug



Dr Thomas Stuttford

THE death of *The Archers'* Guy Pemberton, who owned the Ambridge estate, spoilt the weekend for listeners of the Radio 4 serial, particularly if they have had a cardiovascular disease. Mr Pemberton's death was slightly unusual, as more than half of those who die from a heart attack do so within the first 48 hours. The scriptwriters were not entirely misleading, for there is an appreciable increase in mortality over the first year.

Mr Pemberton's death leaves his widow Caroline and his son Simon with unresolved difficulties, but it also calls into question Dr Richard Locke's care. Had his patient been prescribed a regular daily dose of aspirin and, if he had, was anyone checking to see if he took it? Aspirin, unless there is a sound reason against its use, is recommended for prevention of a second heart attack.

Aspirin has been a wonder drug for nearly 100 years for which new uses are constantly being discovered. Despite its proven use in the prevention of a second heart attack, a recent survey carried out by Oxford University research workers and published in *General Practitioner* shows that only one in ten general practices is correctly recommending its routine use. This could be life-saving in many cases.

One example was an 18-year-old woman darts player who usually hit the 20s with easy grace. One evening, to

the amazement of her fans, she missed and missed again. It transpired that the woman had had a transient ischaemic attack (TIA), a tiny temporary stroke caused by a blood clot temporarily blocking an artery in her brain.

Further tests demonstrated that she had an abnormal clotting tendency, characterised by a positive antiphospholipid test, a simple and cheap blood test. This form of clotting disorder can be helped by the regular prescription of aspirin which reduces the likelihood of further TIAs or even a fatal stroke.

The darts player's condition was the same as that which Dr Graham Hughes of St Thomas's Hospital treats in some women who recurrently miscarry. In these women the placenta is damaged by small clots, the developing baby dies and the mother miscarries. Dr Hughes's research started with women who have lupus and who are also antiphospholipid positive, as are a small sub-group of lupus sufferers. In this group the successful pregnancy rate has, with the help of aspirin, been raised from 17 to 70 per cent.

Tests for the antiphospholipid factor are also important in younger patients who have unusual clotting tendencies, whether these have been demonstrated by early strokes, heart attacks, deep-vein thromboses or even recurrent migraine.

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Hogg watches as prodigal son feeds subsidy to farmers

It was on April 3, began Agriculture Minister Douglas Hogg in his Statement to the Commons yesterday, that he had last made a statement to MPs on BSE. If Mr Hogg had followed the logic implied in this opening remark, he would have dropped the remaining six pages of his Statement and sat down without further ado.

He and Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, had made a series of reassuring Commons Statements before the Easter recess, and after

each the public panic over beef had grown. A fortnight's pause in these reassurances while MPs went on holiday and public alarm had subsided. Beef sales were now climbing back to their pre-reassurance level.

That this suggests some kind of link between ministerial reassurance and public alarm did not seem to occur to the younger Hogg, who ploughed on. Leaning on two sticks in the peers' gallery, the elder Hogg, Douglas's dad Quintin, watched anxiously.

The concern of Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone was understandable. The younger Hogg was there to announce big compensation payments to farmers whose cattle would have to be slaughtered: payments that could only add to the already vast level of public subsidy to agriculture.

Those of us who served in Parliament with Douglas before he realised that he might one day be Agriculture Minister remember him telling us the ruling wisdom in the

Hoggery way back in the 1950s, when the elder Hogg was First Lord of the Admiralty and the younger Hogg was a spotty teenager. They were alarmed at the level of farm subsidy: so alarmed (the present Agriculture Minister used to tell us in the Smoking Room) that the Thanksgiving Day at the

Hoggs's dinner table was dubbed by Hogg senior as subsidy Sunday. One wonders whether Lord Hailsham, peering down at his son's grumpy competent performance at the dispatch box yesterday, cast his mind back nearly 50 years to the boy's mid-century grounding in agro-scepticism and

mourned his end-century prodigality. But this was not so much a case of the prodigal son feeding the hogs as the prodigal Hogg feeding the farmers.

It proved a jolly afternoon. If one believed that morning's newspapers, the session resumed with Tony Blair seething with anger at Clare Short's tax gaffe and John Major reeling in shock at a fresh blow delivered by the voters of Staffordshire SE to his premiership.

If one believed one's eyes, however, it resumed at Prime Minister's Questions with Mr Blair prancing confidently around and laughing off barbs about tax and Ms Short, while Mr Major, relaxed and jokey at the dispatch box, teased Paddy Ashdown and Mr Blair about their script-writers and swapped pleasantries with Peter Brooke (C, City of London and Westminster S) about cricket. Nothing at present seems to be getting under Mr Major's skin.

But there was one oddity. John Prescott has taken to gesticulating wildly but silently as Major and Blair trade ripostes. Blair's sallies are accompanied by triumphant "Take that!" signals from Prescott, while Major's responses get a dismissive sweep of the burly ex-seaman's arms.

Not content with his new status among the middle classes, it seems Mr Prescott may be auditioning for the role of News Bunny on Live! TV. Perhaps a little more work is needed on the cuddle factor.

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Guarded welcome for BSE damages package

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

KEY POINTS OF THE PACKAGE

The £1 billion package largely consists of:
■ £550 million to slaughter cattle more than 30 months old and prevent them entering the food chain. That includes up to £500 per cow to dairy farmers. Over a year, more than one million cattle may be destroyed.
■ £80 million in top-up payments to owners of prime beef cattle over 30 months old.
■ £30 million to abattoirs

and farmers who dispose of male calves in dairy herds soon after birth. These animals used to be exported to the Continent.
■ £80 million to buy and destroy 40,000 tonnes of unsaleable beef that has piled up in warehouses.
■ £30 million in emergency aid to abattoirs based on a payment of £8.75 for every head of cattle slaughtered in 1995-96.
■ £118 million in aid to rendering plants.

Union, said: "Prompt payment of the compensation and the removal of devalued carcasses from cold stores will help the industry as it attempts to meet the renewed

public demand for beef." Tony Loud, who runs a 200-cow family dairy farm near Okehampton, Devon, said: "The compensation announced by Mr Hogg for old

milking cows is acceptable. But we are very worried by his reference to possible further selective culls of animals deemed to be susceptible to BSE. We do not see any need for that at all."

James Burnett keeps 1,100 of prime beef cattle near Newark, Nottinghamshire, which are all over the age of 30 months and face destruction. "The compensation for beef farmers like me is not as bad as I feared, but I could still face a loss of up to £250,000 over a full year," he said.

About £630 million of the aid package will be spent on the slaughter and disposal of cattle over 30 months old, which are considered to be at greater risk of being infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

There will be £110 million to help slaughterhouses. Some



Fair deal: Tony Loud, who runs a farm with his sons Martin, left, and Richard, said the package was acceptable

£80 million of this will be used to buy an estimated 40,000 tonnes of stockpiled beef which cannot be sold because it comes from older cattle or because there is no demand. The meat will probably have to be destroyed.

In addition, up to £80 million will be paid to abattoirs and farmers for the slaughter of male calves from dairy

herds immediately after birth. Nearly all these animals, up to 500,000 a year, were previously exported for the continental veal trade. They may now be made into pet food.

Rendering plants, which specialise in processing animal waste, will receive £118 million in aid. Mr Hogg said the plants had "substantial surplus capacity" and would be mainly responsible for treating and burning the waste material, offal and carcass meat that would no longer be allowed into the food chain.

According to an audit prepared for the Ministry of Agriculture by the accountants Coopers and Lybrand, 15,000 old cows and 6,000 beef animals over 30 months old will have to be slaughtered and destroyed each week, implying the destruction of about a million cattle in a year.

Old cows at the end of their productive life would have been slaughtered anyway. But instead of being turned into burgers and pies they will be destroyed. Farmers will get 86p a kilogram live weight, averaging nearly £500 per animal, roughly the market price they would have fetched before the BSE scare.

The European Union will pay 70 per cent of the cost of this compensation. But the Government will have to pay for the disposal of the carcasses. It will also pay a top-up payment of 25p a kilogram to owners of prime beef cattle over 30 months old, which are much more valuable than old dairy cows.

There are estimated to be 300,000 prime beef cattle on farms above this age limit which cannot now go into the food chain. To clear this

backlog alone in a year, the animals would have to be slaughtered and destroyed at a rate of about 6,000 a week.

Mr Hogg said he was looking at other ways of identifying individual cattle or groups of cattle more likely than others to develop BSE that could be culled selectively in addition to those over 30 months old. But there would be no question of killing whole herds just because they had had a few cases of BSE.

He said: "The models we are looking at involve limited numbers of individual animals — in the low tens of thousands — and do not provide for the slaughter of whole herds."

The proposals for a selective cull are due to be presented to European Union Agriculture Ministers at the end of this month. There is no chance of

The likelihood of success, some lawyers believe, is quite high: the grounds for legal challenge would be that the ban was disproportionate to the risk it sought to avoid. But as any legal action in the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg would be likely to take at least ten months from start to final court ruling, the chief benefit of lodging proceedings could be as a bargaining counter in any negotiations to have the ban lifted.

Simon Jenkins, page 18
Letters, page 19

Diners dismiss beef offal warning as 'load of tripe'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRENCH gastronomy was reeling from another cruel blow yesterday after the Institute of National Consumers (INC) warned the public not to eat beef offal as fear of "mad cow" disease continued to permeate France.

Consumption of beef has dropped sharply here since the European ban on British beef, but the latest warning is a direct threat to some of France's most celebrated delicacies.

The bifeck Aberdeen Angus has already disappeared from French menus and, if the public heeds the latest warning, ris de veau (sweetbread), cervelles (brains), andouillette (small tripe sausage) and amourettes (spinal bone marrow of calf or ox) will soon follow. Given the fact that the French blame British beef for the whole sorry affair, foie de veau anglaise (sauteed English calf's liver), which is usually served with boiled potatoes, could be the first to go.

"We advise consumers to avoid beef offal," Marie-Jeanne Husset, Editor of the consumer journal 60 Million Consommateurs, said, adding that the advisory would remain in place until the scientific community had reached a conclusion on the possible transmission of BSE to human beings.

Where the average British palate tends to balk at eating animal parts intended for thinking, digesting or excreting, virtually no organ is excluded from the French pot. Intestines, udders, liver, heart, lungs, brains and kidneys are all included in the

French definition of edible offal, or abats.

Last week, an English visitor to Paris ordered *museau de boeuf*, assuming it to be some particularly succulent steak. When informed that she was about to be presented with vinegared beef muzzles, she paled and abruptly changed her order.

Although the French refer to Britons as *Les Rosbifs*, France is the largest consumer of beef in Europe. But even before the current crisis, French meat consumption was beginning to wane. In 1979 the average French citizen consumed 25 kilos (55lb) of meat annually, but by last year the figure had dropped to 19 kilos (42lb).

The trend has been accelerating and, since last month's beef ban, more than half of all French restaurants have reported a drop in beef orders. In Paris, restaurateurs say consumption has halved while trade at vegetarian restaurants has jumped by a third. Popular restaurant chains such as Hippopotamus, the self-proclaimed "carnivore's heaven", have started serving "vegiburgers", the sort of dish that makes most French chefs reach for the smelling salts.

With traditional French cuisine already in crisis, it is facing intense competition from sushi, pasta and fast food — the advisory recommending the avoidance of offal will be a bitter pill to swallow for the nation's chefs, many of whom save their most extravagant and inventive recipes for offal dishes.

No country on Earth takes

its food as seriously as France.

Open a certain French encyclopaedia at the word "food" and you will find the warning: "Do not read or watch television while eating. The secretion of digestive juices is stimulated by the sight, smell and feel of food... many digestive problems are caused by paying insufficient attention to the food on the plate."

In a country where cooking is a combination of art, science and religion, beef offal is a central part of the repertoire of every great chef. The notion that it may be dangerous is little short of revolutionary. However, according to an unsentimental survey conducted yesterday, many French diners have reacted to the latest culinary caveat by ignoring it.

At a restaurant near the Paris office of *The Times*, one of the regular customers was tucking into *tête de veau* (veal head) without an apparent care in the world. When asked what he thought of the new warning against eating offal, his reply was succinct: "Quelles bêtises", which can be translated only as "What a load of tripe".

Even the prices were not very high. A head of veau, for example, cost 12 francs (1.90p).

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Dutch MPs vote to give homosexuals marriage rights

By Charles Bremner

THE Dutch parliament voted yesterday to grant homosexual partners all the legal rights and duties of married couples, a step which would put the Netherlands far ahead of any other European state in the area of gay rights.

However, the coalition government, which had earlier backed the idea of legal same-sex marriage contracts, indicated that it was having second thoughts in the light of the damage this could inflict on the country's already tarnished image as the home of legal drugs.

Elisabeth Schmitz, Social Affairs Minister, told the parliament that the Cabinet would review its vote and report on its legislative plans in several weeks. The Government is not bound to implement the motion, but a political storm is certain if it ignores parliament's wishes.

The parliament is backing a draft law under which homosexuals who register their union with the authorities would benefit from all the social security and pension rights of heterosexual spouses. For tax purposes, gay couples would benefit from married status, including the rules of inheritance of property, pension and rights over children from any previous relationship. They would also be allowed to adopt children but not those of foreign birth.

For several years Dutch town halls have allowed homosexual couples to register their unions as "partner-

ship contracts" and liberal Protestant clergy have celebrated their bond at wedding-type ceremonies. Yesterday's vote, if enacted as law, would give gay partnership much greater legal status, going beyond that of same-sex couples in Denmark, Norway and Sweden who are given limited legal recognition after "registration".

The Government said its overall aim was to "adapt family law to the evolution of a society which, as well as marriage, recognises other forms of common life".

Some conservative and Catholic critics have suggested

that Queen Beatrix might withhold royal assent from a gay marriage Act although most commentators consider such a step implausible.

The Queen has made known in recent years that she has grown weary of her country's position as the fount of Europe's most controversial social legislation. The Netherlands is under especially heavy fire from France over its drugs policy. President Chirac has cited it as a main reason for his refusal to open French frontiers to passport-free travel despite France's commitment to do so under the Schengen treaty.

Gay rights groups said the proposed new law did not go far enough because it discriminated against homosexual couples who wanted to adopt children abroad.

European Union officials in Brussels said they were studying the implications of the possible Dutch law. Legal marriages in any member state are recognised by all the others.

In London Stonewall, the gay rights pressure group, said last night that Britain may be forced to recognise the legality of gay marriages as a result of the Dutch move.

Mark Watson, who is in charge of "partnerships" at the group, said: "This is an amazing decision. I predict that up to 1,000 gay couples may go to Holland to take advantage of this new law, and Britain would be obliged to recognise their marital status."

Hawaii set to break US ban

New York: A Hawaii court in August may pave the way for legal homosexual marriage across the United States (Quentin Letts writes).

As a result of a long-running legal action by Niznia Baehr and Genora Dancal, a lesbian couple, Hawaii will have to prove a "compelling interest" for its present ban on gay marriages. If the case goes against the state, homosexual weddings would probably have to be recognised throughout the United States under the Constitution's "full faith and credit" clause, which binds the various states to honour each other's procedures.



Sir Peter Ustinov, actor, playwright and director, in 1987

Germans throw party for man of many roles

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BERLIN

SIR Peter Ustinov yesterday celebrated his 75th birthday in characteristic style — talking wittily in a foreign language to 1,000 prominent guests, including two former German Presidents and the present head of state, Roman Herzog.

Germany put on the one-man gala show in Berlin in part because the country has some claim on the actor's ancestry. Sir Peter's Russian grandfather emigrated to Württemberg and his father, a journalist, became press attaché at the German Embassy in London until he was dismissed by Hitler's Foreign Minister, Joachim von Ribbentrop. Germany takes lineage seriously and Klaus Kinkel, the present Foreign Minister, was one of many politicians to send congratulations to the British-born, Westminister-educated actor, director and writer.

Pinpointing Sir Peter's nationality has always been a problem for outsiders, apart from his Russian and German blood and British upbringing, he has French, Italian and even Ethiopian ancestors; his main residence is in Switzerland. Sir Peter narrows himself down to being a "European".

The plaudits yesterday had similar difficulties in identifying his chief claim to fame. Most settled on his acting, includ-

ing 60 films, his two Oscars (for *Spartacus* and *Topkapi*) and his three Emmies for television performances. Critics were most enthusiastic about his podgy Nero in *Quo Vadis* and his Hercule Poirot — the Belgian detective who drew so effectively on his "little grey cells" in *Death on the Nile*.

It seems said the Berlin *Tagesspiegel*, easier to work out which arts he has not mastered. Plainly he is an accomplished novelist: his tenth novel appeared in 1990. He has also written 20 plays and nine screenplays. His caricatures have displayed graphic talent, exhibitions of his photographs have been much praised. Sir Peter also has an international reputation as an opera and theatre director. *Tagesspiegel* concluded there was only one missing talent: architecture. Even this is open to argument since, following in the footsteps of his French mother, he has a high reputation as a designer of theatre sets.

Sir Peter is also a very active UNICEF ambassador, newspaper columnist and a regular compiler and presenter of television documentaries. The one-man show however, highlighted his talent to amuse, both as an aphorist and a mimic. "Laughter has always struck me as the most civilised of human noises," he said.



As Private Angelo in 1949...



in Romanoff and Juliet...



as Hercule Poirot...



and in party mood yesterday

'Citizen O' admits killing at least 40 in Ukraine villages

FROM LESIA RUDAKIEWICH IN KIEV AND THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

POLICE in Ukraine said yesterday that they were holding a former forestry student on suspicion of carrying out one of the worst murder sprees in recent European history.

Police said the 37-year-old man detained on Sunday evening in the town of Yavorov, western Ukraine, had confessed to more than 40 murders across the country. The man, identified only as "Citizen O", was a native of the town of Zhilomir. He was carrying a hunting rifle that matched the murder weapon in several of the killings and had jewellery and video equipment, which may have belonged to some of his victims.

"This is the first time in Ukraine's modern history that one man has committed so many murders," Leonid Boro-

dich, the First Deputy Interior Minister, said. "This is a terrible crime. It has caused Ukraine a great deal of pain." He said the detained man was "psychologically normal".

A manhunt was launched across Ukraine last month after eight families were brutally murdered in a killing spree that began at the end of last year. Most of the victims were from remote villages in the Lvov region near the border with Poland. There were so many killings in one village, Bratkovichi, that troops were sent to patrol streets and villagers kept their lights burning through the night.

The murders followed a set pattern. The murderer chose an isolated house and shot everyone inside, including the children, with a hunting rifle.

He would then kill any witnesses and set fire to the house. The first victims were four members of a family in Bratkovichi, who were killed and their house torched. Another family of five and two witnesses were killed not long after in the same village.

When police imposed a security cordon on Bratkovichi, the murderer moved to other villages and then committed a wave of killings across the country. He travelled by rail and left almost no clues.

"Citizen O" looks likely to join the "Rostov Ripper" as one of the grisliest serial killers of the former Soviet Union. The "Rostov Ripper", Andrei Chikatilo, killed more than 50 victims in southern Russia over a 17-year period and was executed in 1994.

Secret Russian complex exposed

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

RUSSIA has for years been secretly constructing a vast underground military complex in the southern Ural Mountains, the Clinton Administration said yesterday.

The complex is being built inside Yamantau mountain by tens of thousands of workers, covers an area the size of Washington and is served by its own railway and road. State Department spokesmen said the Administration did not know what its purpose was, but other American officials suggested it could be anything from a nuclear command centre to a weapons production plant.

The project was started in the early 1980s or earlier, when the Cold War was at its peak, and has for years been monitored by American spy satellites. However, its disclosure by *The New York Times* just before President Clinton meets President Yeltsin in Moscow this weekend will embarrass both Governments.

Russia has been complain-

Cold War's end brings land bonus for civilians

BY MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 8,000 military sites covering a million hectares will have been handed over to civilian use around the world by the turn of the century, according to research published yesterday.

The global trend in base closures since the end of the Cold War, following decades of an uninterrupted arms race, is highlighted in a book by the

Bonn International Centre of Conversion, an independent research institute.

The majority of the closures have taken place in Europe and the United States. The US has shut down more than 40 per cent of its foreign bases, resulting in the return of about 1,000 sites, mostly in Europe but also in Panama, the Philippines and Bermuda.

Germany has been the country most severely affected. Seven countries had main-

tained permanent bases in former East and West Germany and more than 1.3 million soldiers had guarded the border, which disappeared at reunification in 1990.

Since then more than 4,000 sites occupying 328,000 hectares, or almost 1 per cent of German territory, have been closed. According to the research, *Conversion Survey 1996*, Global Disarmament, Demilitarisation and Demobilisation, the US has with-

drawn 180,000 troops and laid off 41,000 German civilians. Britain has closed or reduced 330 sites in Germany and returned more than 4,750 hectares of land. France closed or reduced 230 sites, Belgium 120 sites, The Netherlands 20 sites and Canada five sites.

Russia's withdrawal of half a million soldiers from Central and East Europe caused comparatively little economic impact because they lived in closed communities.

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ing that it lacks the money to implement recent arms reduction treaties, and it receives millions of dollars annually to help with the dismantling of its nuclear arsenal on condition that all new military projects are strictly defensive.

A State Department spokesman insisted that the United States had no evidence to suggest the complex violated that condition, but he admitted the Russians had fobbed off previous American attempts to discover what it was by saying it had "nothing to do with arms control agreements or rearmament and is none of your business". He acknowledged that Mr Clinton would probably be forced by yesterday's disclosure to revive the issue this weekend.

"We can't say with confidence what the purpose is, and the Russians are not very interested in having us go in there," another official said.

Mr Clinton and other members of the world's G7 leading industrialised countries are meeting in Moscow this weekend to discuss ways to combat black-market trafficking in nuclear materials.

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US makes progress in forging Lebanon truce

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

INTENSE negotiations spearheaded by America made progress yesterday towards drawing up an agreement to halt the week-old Israeli offensive in Lebanon, cement a long-term deal that could halt the tit-for-tat attacks across Israel's northern border, and facilitate peace talks between Israel and Syria.

As Israel's ground and air barrage against alleged terrorist targets inside Lebanon continued, Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, was shown a draft of the document and a senior Israeli source expressed confidence that the deal would be completed within a few days. However, Operation Grapes of Wrath would continue "to make sure that the message gets through that attacking us, now or in the future, will be an action that will always hurt and exact a heavy price," the source said.

The Washington-brokered plan stipulates that:
 □ Lebanon guarantees the security of residents of settlements in northern Israel.
 □ Rocket attacks on northern Israel stop.
 □ Guerrilla attacks against soldiers inside Israel's self-proclaimed security zone in south Lebanon halt in return

for an Israeli declaration that it will pull out of the south if there are no guerrilla attacks for nine months.

□ Syria guarantees the agreement and sets up a mechanism to implement it.

There was a two-minute lull at 10am in the offensive as sirens sounded throughout the Jewish state for a silence to remember the six million victims of the Holocaust.

To drive home the message that any organisation assist-

ing the Iranian-backed Hezbollah would be held accountable despite the 1993 peace deal with the Palestinians, Israeli planes attacked a building inside the sprawling Palestinian refugee camp of Ein el-Hilweh, near the port city of Sidon. An Israeli Army spokesman said the building belonged to Brigade 13 of the Palestinian rejectionist group Black September, which was opposed to the peace deal signed in Washington.

Mr Peres is understood to have made clear to his three-man negotiating team — Ehud Barak, Foreign Minister; Uri Savir, Foreign Ministry Director-General; and Yoel Zinger, Foreign Ministry legal adviser — that a ceasefire will only be implemented once a document is agreed that goes beyond vague limitations on military activities.

Senior figures in the Israeli defence establishment have been arguing with Mr Peres

tying a deal to an eventual withdrawal from the south Lebanese buffer zone it established in 1985. Syria and Lebanon can be persuaded to play a part in restraining, and eventually winding up, Hezbollah activity.

Diplomats recognise that the problem in securing implementation will be to provide guarantees and winning the tacit co-operation of Iran.

Without commenting on the substance of the peace plan, Mr Barak, a former Chief of Staff and a key player in the ruling Labour Party's campaign for re-election in the Israeli elections to be held on May 29, said: "I expect the bombing of Lebanon to continue despite intensive efforts to end the fighting, even in Beirut."

The first hint of the extent of the backstairs diplomacy came when Mr Savir left more than 60 foreign ambassadors stranded in Jerusalem's Laromme Hotel for a meeting on Monday morning he was unable to attend because of the negotiations. Later, none too pleased by the upset, the foreign envoys were told to come to see him instead at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem.

‘The operation continues, to make sure the message gets through that attacking us will always hurt’

Rockets reopen religious rift

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN BEIRUT

IT TOOK just seconds to cause millions of pounds of destruction and plunge Beirut into darkness. "Two Israeli jets came in low and fired six rockets into the power station," said Philippe Hadad, 40, a Maronite Christian labourer who watched the attack from his flat.

"There was a huge noise, the earth shook, and they were gone," Grim-faced, he added: "We can thank Hezbollah for this."

As he spoke, despondent officials picked through the wreckage of the Baalein substation in the pine-clad hills five miles northeast of the capital, the air still pungent with the smell of smouldering rubber. Twisted pylons dangled from a web of torn cables over shattered concrete supports. An old sign on the

broken perimeter wall read: "Entry Forbidden: Danger Of Death."

For the Lebanese Government, Israel is doing more than just overburdening it with several thousand displaced people. The humanitarian crisis was set to intensify as Israeli radio warned that the army might include the refugee-swollen city of Sidon in its attack zone after airstrikes were carried out there yesterday on the base of a radical Palestinian group.

The Lebanese Government is convinced Israel is trying to blackmail it into curbing Hezbollah in two other ways. First, by targeting Lebanon's infrastructure, just as the Government is spending billions on reconstruction after the devastation of the coun-

try's 15-year civil war. Three power substations have been hit, and Beirut airport, the country's window on the world, has been in the line of fire.

Second, and even more alarming, government officials believe Israel is trying to tear open the old sectarian wounds of the civil war.

The Baalein substation is in Lebanon's Christian heartland. Here, unlike the impoverished Shia refugees from southern Lebanon, few regarded Hezbollah as courageous freedom fighters. The organisation's austere way of life and radical values are alien to the Francophile Christians.

"Hezbollah's resistance to Israel is futile. They should stop the rocket attacks at once," said Mary Khouri, 26,

a smartly dressed mother of two. "It's us who are suffering now. It's our children without electricity, us without televisions or washing machines. The crazies of God [Hezbollah] want to die anyway."

At the end of Lebanon's prolonged civil conflict, which all Lebanese are trying desperately to put behind them, the Christians turned on each other with demoralising brutality. Since the latest hostilities with Israel, Mrs Khouri has not crossed into mainly Muslim west Beirut.

Such action dismays the Government which has tried hard to forge a new nation from the ashes of civil war. A senior Lebanese official accused Israel of "trying to create new ethnic hatreds among the younger generation."



Presidents Clinton and Kim Young Sam of South Korea on their way to a press conference yesterday after talks about tension in the Korean peninsula

Flattering backdrop to Clinton star role

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

HAD it not been election year in America, President Clinton and South Korea's President Kim Young Sam might have been pictured around some dreary Seoul conference table.

As it was, their meeting took place on Monday on the more picturesque island of Cheju where they posed before a brilliant yellow mustard field offset by an American flag.

It was an image Americans will remember long after they have forgotten what the meeting was about. It cast Mr Clinton in a flattering light — calm, statesmanlike. Mark it down as another triumph for the half-dozen White House "lead advance people" whose job is to search out visually arresting sites for presidential photo-opportunities.

It was they who had Mr Clinton and President Yeltsin gazing across the Hudson river at glorious autumn foliage when they met last October. It was they who had the shrubbery cut back so Bill "Boris" could be photographed on a headland above the Pacific during their 1993 Vancouver summit. "We dream, and other people rein us in," says Josi King, Mr Clinton's grandly named Director of Production for Presidential Events.

Last month, when Mr Clinton attended an international anti-terrorism summit in Sinai, he took Mort Engelberg, a Hollywood producer. His show of the President as world leader will doubtless resurface in campaign commercials this autumn.

Foreign travel gives Mr Clinton an enormous advantage over Bob Dole, his Republican opponent. It enables him to look thoroughly presidential as he mingles with other leaders. Mr Dole spent Monday campaigning in Pennsylvania, where he was pictured drinking a chocolate milkshake.

President Clinton arrived in Japan last night for talks designed to bind the two nations more closely in an effective strategy for the maintenance of stability in the Far East. Mr Clinton has to demonstrate that he is fighting hard for American access to Japan's closed markets.

North Korea rejects American peace call

BY MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A PEACE initiative announced yesterday during President Clinton's visit to South Korea was immediately rejected by a senior North Korean official, increasing speculation about Pyongyang's intentions towards its southern neighbour.

After three incursions across the border by North Korean forces this month,

there are fears that Pyongyang may be considering a more ambitious military operation which would undermine all efforts to forge lasting peaceful relations between the two Koreas.

Mr Clinton and President Kim Young Sam of South Korea invited North Korea and China to join talks aimed at securing a permanent peace on the Korean peninsula. However, their peace initiative, unveiled on the South Korean resort

island of Cheju, immediately ran into trouble, when North Korea's Ambassador to Moscow dismissed it and, Russia also insisted on a role. Mr Clinton said the talks could begin immediately and without conditions. He ruled out bilateral talks with Pyongyang.

Western intelligence services, attempting to predict North Korea's next moves, have not ruled out Pyongyang mounting a series of infiltrations.

Blast adds weight to ambitions of Imran

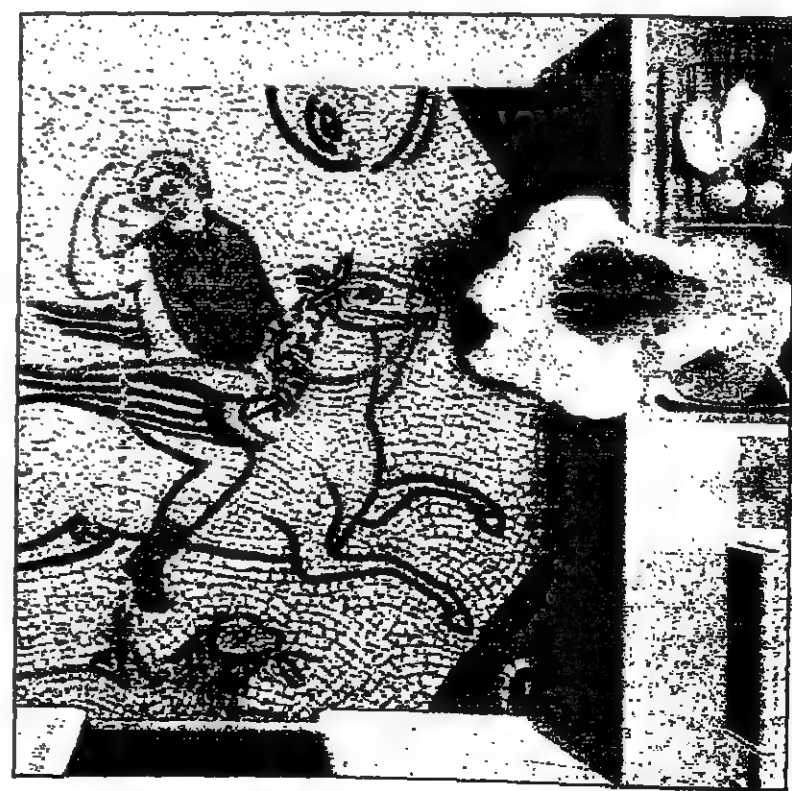
FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN LAHORE

THE bomb that wrecked part of the Lahore hospital founded by Imran Khan has enhanced the former Pakistani cricketer's standing in a country that adores him. His enemies miscalculated. His impending attempt to become Prime Minister, probably on a platform of Islamic conservatism, is both certain and viable.

The explosion demonstrates how serious a threat he is perceived to be. He seemed a misfit in his country before reinventing himself in the past year, and "King Khan", as he is known, has emerged as a symbol of hope for a nation gripped by drugs, poverty, amoral politics and virtual civil war. Discredited establishment politicians have good reason to fear a man of such impeccable record and mass appeal. Hence the bomb.

He criticises politicians of all parties, which is well received at the grassroots but it has created enemies for him. "They are corrupt to the core," he tells crowds. "They have devoured the wealth of this nation, yet they thirst for more. Hang me from the Minar-i-Pakistan if you find that I have embezzled any money from the hospital."

For more than a year he has been talking politics while denying political ambitions, but people are used to his inconsistencies. The party he is about to form will principally target Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister, a feudal landlord for whom he has ill-disguised contempt.



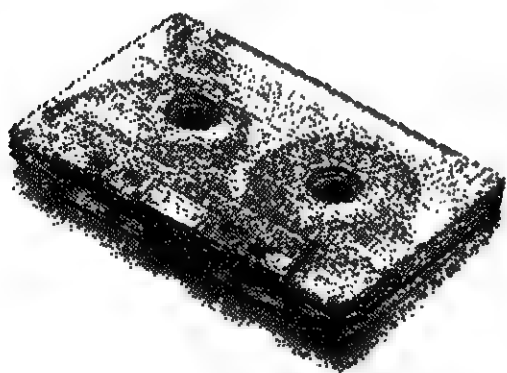
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It's a simple solution to an everyday problem. But in most cases blind people are not given the basic information they require in an accessible form. The Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) is campaigning for companies to make information available in formats such as tape, braille, large print and computer disk to meet the needs of their blind customers. Most improvements are relatively inexpensive. Enlarging the size of

type on correspondence or giving out more information over the phone — simple measures that are essential if blind people are to lead independent lives. Maybe you know someone with poor or failing sight who may benefit from the services we offer. If you would like more information about RNIB please call us on 0345 023040.



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English-speakers suffer wrath of Quebec militants

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

ENGLISH-SPEAKERS in Montreal have been harried, fined and, in a handful of cases, threatened with death by militant French-speakers. Six months after the referendum on the sovereignty of Quebec, in which the French-backed independence movement narrowly failed to achieve "50 per cent plus one", there is unease among anglophones in the province's main city. Hospital closures and job losses have fuelled suspicions of anti-English prejudice among local bureaucrats.

A shadowy francophone organisation, the Mouvement de Libération du Québec, has blacklisted 22 companies it considers pro-English. Anonymous letters carrying a picture of an armed French revolutionary have been sent to some senior anglophone businessmen. A second list, of "enemies of the people", include the leaders of the anglophone Equality Party.

The Mouvement also published the home telephone number of an English-speaking black cartoonist who lampooned francophone leaders. The surname of the cartoonist is Bonaparte. Some of the francophone toughs who telephoned him not only accused him of being a racist but also threatened to kill him.

Keith Henderson, leader of the Equality Party, has had

the same experience. He answered his telephone at home one night to be told, by a gruff French voice, that "military means should be used to expunge your people from Quebec soil". Another advocate for anglophone rights, Brent Tyler, has had "up to four death threats, all made late at night", and a francophone lawyer who has shared a platform with Mr Tyler has been ostracised by his family.

Until now the aggression has been on the fringes, but the Office de la Langue Française, the "language police", clumsily cranked up tensions when its agents seized Passover supplies this month. The special cake mixes, biscuits and sweets, made in New York, did not have bilingual wrappings and were therefore illegal. One prominent Jew, Mark Kotler, said: "No one apologised for the raid. This was anti-Semitism."

English-speaking people are leaving the province. The English-language population of Quebec dropped from 789,185 in 1971 to 626,600 in 1991, and hearsay evidence suggests that the threat for an independent Quebec has led others to leave this attractive city. It remains a pretty place to visit, but an ugliness dwells beneath the surface. Laurie Heitner, a frail old English-speaker, said she was becoming

used to francophones interrupting her conversations in public places and ordering: "Parlez français!"

Allegations of "ethnic cleansing" have been made in arbitration submissions against a Quebec branch of Teleglobe Canada, a telecommunications firm. At a French-run supermarket in a Montreal suburb, young English-speaking shop workers were abruptly sacked. With many anglophones in or approaching old age, there is concern about the closure of two-fifths of hospitals where English is spoken.

Mr Henderson, whose electorally slim party claims to have seen a boom in street-level support since October, says that the referendum "woke up anglophones". A recent party rally attracted 800 people and a meeting of party workers on Sunday saw energetic contributions from the floor.



The singer Madonna and Carlos Leon, the Cuban-born fitness club manager who is the father of her child

Madonna with child

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

UNLIKE a virgin, the singer Madonna, 37, has completed her metamorphosis from sex symbol to earth mother. She is four months pregnant and "deliriously happy", her publicist confirms.

As famous nowadays for sexual candour as for her pop songs, Madonna — full name Madonna Louise Veronica Ciccone — announced her pregnancy in Budapest, where she is filming Alan Parker's version of the musical *Evita*.

The father of her child will be Carlos Leon, 29, a Cuban-born New York fitness club manager whom she met 18 months ago while jogging in Manhattan's Central Park. Madonna, who was married for four years to actor Sean Penn, and Mr Leon are equally delighted at the prospect, according to the singer's public relations team.

"Madonna doesn't want this to be a big deal, but I don't know how she thinks it won't be a big deal," Liz Rosenberg, her chief spokeswoman, told New York columnist Liz Smith.



Actress Patsy Kensit with Oasis singer Liam Gallagher

Oasis tour bogs down

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

THE American tour by Oasis, the British pop phenomenon, was in chaos yesterday after the lead guitarist was struck down by tonsillitis, forcing the cancellation of two concerts.

Thousands of fans of the band, touted as Britain's most exciting pop export since The Beatles, were disappointed when Oasis cancelled its Los Angeles concert barely two hours before it was due to start on Monday. Yesterday's concert in Phoenix, Arizona, was also cancelled, while to-

night's in Denver was at the mercy of guitarist Noel Gallagher's doctors.

The impression of a tour collapsing under the pressures of band members' personal problems was strengthened when actress Patsy Kensit, girlfriend of the lead singer, Liam, abruptly left the group to fly home to London. Ms Kensit, who is pregnant, shouted angrily at a photographer at Los Angeles airport before flying home alone. Her relationship reportedly had turned stormy.

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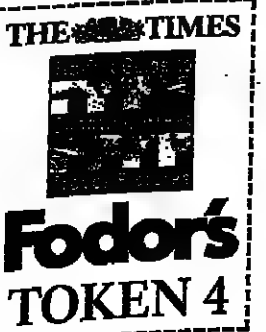


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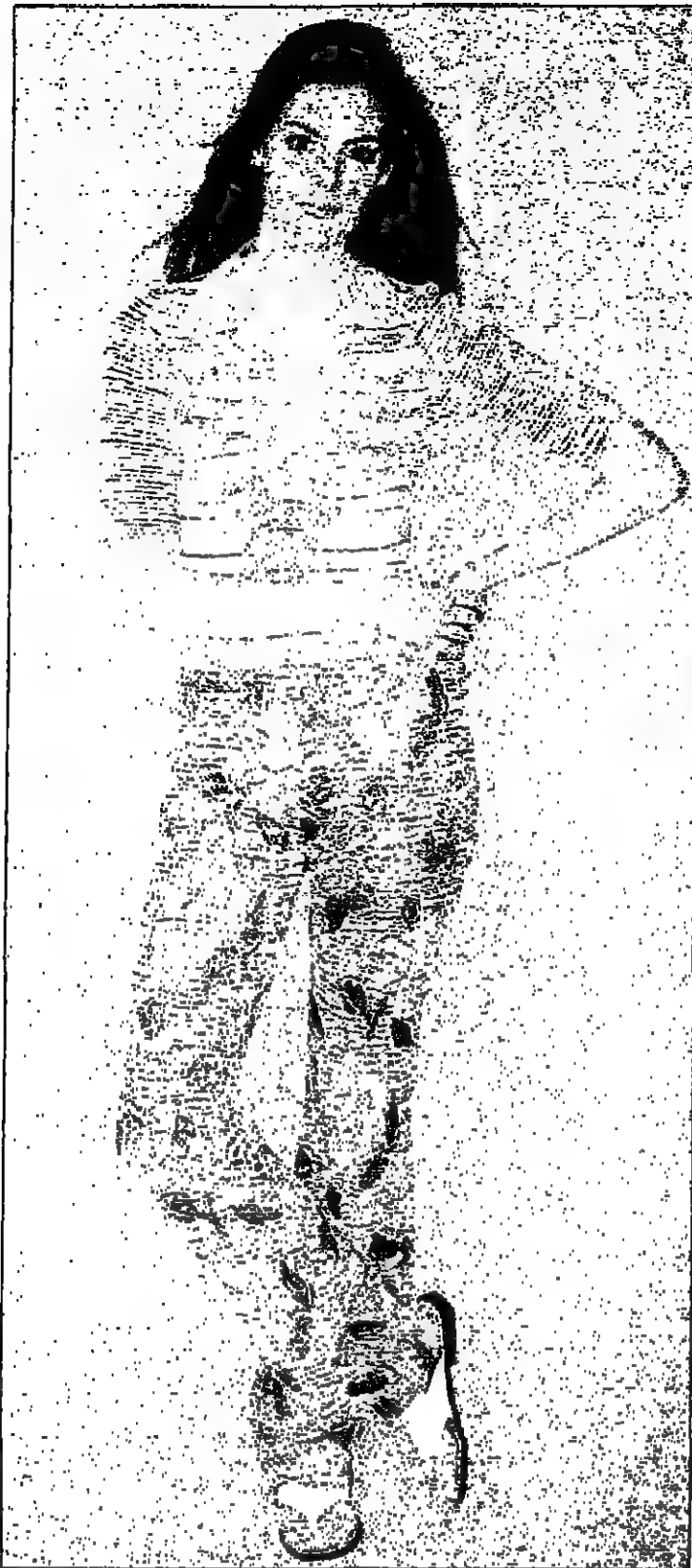
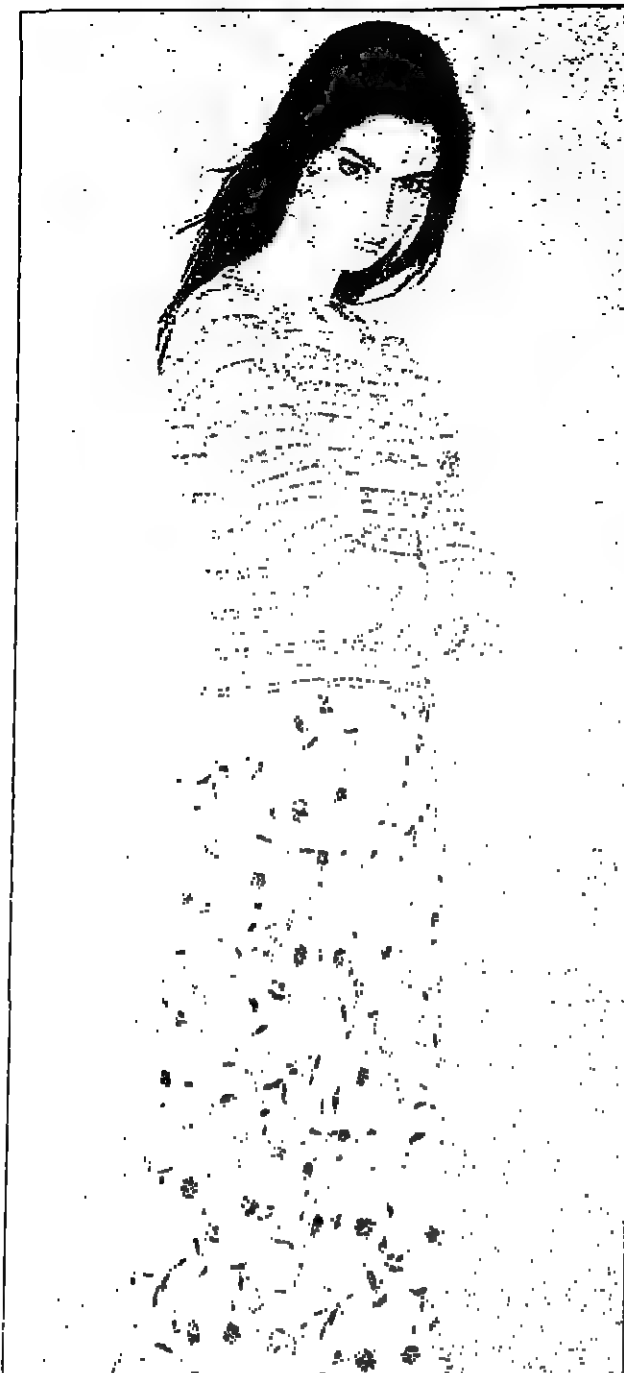
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All things bright and psychedelic



Put away your little black numbers and think florals, stripes and wild, wild colour — the international catwalks are awash with every hue and pattern

Fashion journalist of the year



IAIN R. WEBB

This season, fashion editors the world over appear to be in a state of shock. If there was one unifying element which emerged during the latest collections from London, Paris, Milan and New York, it has to be the shock of colour... and lots of it. The front rows at the shows, a long liquorice lace of black, black and more black, were the antithesis of the clashing citrus brights, shrieking neon shades and more practical pastel hues paraded on the catwalks.

Print provided perhaps the biggest shockwaves. Fashion has been plain, plain, plain for such a long time, with few designers breaking the minimalist mould. However, this season these wildly patterned outfits suddenly looked right again. The catwalks were awash with Technicolor dream-clothes: florals, stripes, checks, Puco-style geometric patterns, animal prints and swirling scribble designs in the vibrant colours of a child's crayon box. Blistering and bright.

Florals and stripes still provide the easiest entrée to pattern. They were certainly everywhere. Flower prints positively bloomed on the international catwalks. From Krizia's spriggy blooms on gauzy black chiffon spaghetti-strap dresses, or faded floral prints on flesh-coloured dresses, to Katharine Hamnett's flashy sequined florals and the opulent beadwork of Giorgio Armani.

In London the young design team Clements Ribetto used 1950s wallpaper designs as inspiration for their boldly patterned collection.

At Gucci, designer Tom

Ford splashed pink, yellow and white paint-drip stripes on to hipsters worn with mismatched blue and white Op-Art stripe shirts. Gianni Versace featured citrus stripes in his Versus line, colouring silky shirtresses and little knitted polo shirts. Even Rei Kawakubo of Comme des Garçons, who is famous for her love affair with black, showed an unrelenting barrage of neon bright stripes.

In America wacky Todd Oldham offered multicoloured sweetie-paper stripes and spiky Missoni-esque zigzags in apple green, dark pink and ochre. The Missoni connection is not accidental. The Italian husband and wife design team, Tai and Rosita Missoni, are celebrating 40 years in the business and a renewed interest in their colourful knitwear designs has surely provided the best birthday present they could have wished for.

Suddenly hip young stylists are running around town in the duo's striped skinny knits, and anyone over the age of 30 who owns one of their original designs is proudly parading it. The Missoni's look is instantly recognisable — psychedelic colourways knitted into computer-generated techno stripes, futuristic zigzags and graphic floral designs. While fashion persists in plundering the past and revisits the 1970s, the Missoni will continue to receive floral tributes of their own.

Often designers mix the two, like Prada's teal blue, white and milk chocolate stripes worn with mauve and lime flowery prints. These outfits take a retro trip backwards in time. Think Susan Dey in *The Partridge Family*, the popular American TV show which starred David Cassidy, or back issues of *Look Now*, the 1980s teen fashion magazine. The look is essentially bright and cheerful. Happy, smiley clothes for happy, smiley people.



TOP FAR LEFT: Yellow, red and lime stripe sweater, £27, Benetton, selected branches. White floral print midi-skirt, £150, Sonia Rykiel — Inscrptions, Browns, 23-27 South Molton Street, W1 (0171 491 7833)

TOP CENTRE: Pink/red/white space-dyed top, £135, floral print trousers, £400, Missoni, Browns, 23-27 South Molton Street, W1 (0171 491 7833). Fortnum & Mason, Piccadilly. White flip-flop sandals, £24.99, Next (01162 849424)

TOP RIGHT: Pale blue, chocolate brown, orange, yellow and white cashmere sweater, £286, pink, yellow, pale blue and white button-through cotton dress, £300, Clements Ribetto, Liberty, Harrods (0171 409 7719)

ABOVE: Black, red, yellow and blue stripe sweater, £260, black floral midi-skirt, £150, Sonia Rykiel — Inscrptions, Browns, as above



RIGHT ABOVE: Green, yellow and pink twist cardigan, £41, top, £29, Benetton, selected branches nationwide. Zigzag blue and white flared trousers, £210, Missoni, as above

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Royalty, pain and the final farewell

The divorce of the Duke and Duchess of York has once again put the Royal Family back on a soap opera footing

NOW that the Church of England is considering offering services to help divorces mark the end of their marriage, it must be presumed that divorce, even the divorce of a member of the Royal Family, has lost its power to shock.

I do not say that divorce has lost its power to hurt; one would hate facetiously to sweep aside the anxieties and possible sufferings of children. But these are private concerns. The questions are: is the divorce of the Duke and Duchess of York a public concern? Should it be?

The answer to both questions has to be no. Very few of us are untainted by an appetite for gossip, but that is not quite the same thing. But it does not and cannot matter to us whether Andrew and Fergie are joined or torn asunder. And it makes no difference constitutionally. Frankly, after the litany of disasters that constitute the Royal Family, one is too punch-drunk to muster much of a response. There have been too many gory details to read about over the past few years for one tidy little amputation now to raise many eyebrows.

The shock, anyway, came when the Yorks announced their separation. Their union had always been so publicly physical. During their engagement and in the early days of their marriage, they made it clear, obvious you could say, that they couldn't take their hands off one another. Of course, it may be that one should always be suspicious of those who make demonstrations of affection in public, but it seems that the closeness was genuine. Sex may not be everything, as we are constantly told these days, but it's not nothing, either. Marriages that fall are normally marriages which have foundered sexually.

From the outside, the Prince and Princess of Wales's marriage always looked like a cold union: their separation may have shocked more as a constitutional matter, but on a basic, human or emotional level, the failure of the Yorks' marriage gave more of a jolt.

Even so, everything is sus-

ceptible to the law of diminishing returns. With each new instalment of the not so merry wives of Windsor, we are a little less shocked. The announcement of the Yorks' divorce comes so swiftly upon the story that they had an open marriage, and would continue to sleep with whomsoever they chose but also with one another, that it is hard not to deduce that there came an order from on high. In short, the divorce is an attempt at damage limitation. Is it too late for all that? It is hard not to conclude that enough damage has been done, that nothing anyone could do now could stop the rot. And yet, such talk would be rather beside the point. The Queen must surely be dismayed to have the monarchy held up to ridicule and to have her family lampooned. She must be irked that her children and their spouses have been between them brought, as it were, the game into disrepute. But whatever she does, however badly her children behave, is in fact of no consequence. It is important to remember that.

By which, I don't mean that the behaviour of the Royal Family might not appear to have ramifications, or that we might not have an opinion on it. But the point about our monarchy is that it exists and will continue to exist, regardless of how well or badly members of the family behave. It doesn't take a particularly good historian to see that it has survived jolts rather worse than a few infidelities and divorces. Story after story is printed about the rising unpopularity of the Royal Family, but the Royal Family doesn't depend on popularity for its existence. That's the whole point of it.

Similarly, there is no point ever asking — as countless polls do — whether we think the Prince of Wales would make a good King or not. Whatever we think is immaterial. These days, it doesn't do to look as if you scorn popular opinion. So I can see that the Royal Family must appear to pay lip service to it. But it cannot be more than that. Who marries whom, who divorces whom: none of this is to the point. If you believe in blue blood, then what does it matter in whose veins it flows? Much is spoken about incipient republicanism in this country. Why, it is said tremulously, the tabloids are just waiting for an excuse to get rid of the Royal Family. Quite

apart from the fact that it is hard to deduce exactly what anyone means by this — a palace coup by green-shaded editors and their hack-accomplices, perhaps — it seems unbelievable that there will ever be much pressure for the tabloids to destroy their chief source of copy. But again, we get back to the point: the outrage, real or more often feigned, provoked by the behaviour or marital history of members of the Royal Family

will really damage the Royal Family is unlikely. The Princess of Wales's evidence so far hardly puts the family in a good light, but while the adverse publicity may be distasteful to them, it cannot injure the monarchy.

A devout republican cannot be convinced we should have a monarchy however fine and upstanding individual members of the Royal Family might prove themselves to be. Any more than a monarchist would wish to overthrow the Royal Family on account of the bad behaviour of any of its number.

Those loyal to the crown might, it is true, wish for the Royal Family to behave better in the first place, but that is only because they would wish to maintain the fiction of its superiority. But even so, they know it is not really to do with that.

Besides, with getting on for half the married population due to divorce, it would seem strange to view the dissolution of a marriage as an evil which must on no account happen. One could indeed view this announcement of the Yorks' divorce as a concession to modern values, rather than a shock to the system. Upper-class philandering is not tolerated in the way

it was in Edward VII's time: these days the middle classes want divorce and so this is what they must have.

This may, then, be a purely cynical exercise. We can have no inkling as to whether the Duke and Duchess of York themselves wish it, nor can speculation make us any the wiser. Like most gestures of course, it is, as the cliché goes, an empty one. But I think it was ever apparent that if there had to be a sacrifice, it was always going to be poor Fergie.



Nigella Lawson

is simply a smokescreen. The divorce of the Yorks might help the Royal Family, not because more leaks would damage it, but because it puts it all back on soap opera course. Thus we're thrown off the real scent. It is bread and circuses.

The putative divorce of the Prince and Princess of Wales is of a more serious nature. It does concern, after all, the heir to the throne and it does, or might seem to, throw up questions as to the succession. Whether in reality even that

At first, they couldn't take their hands off each other

INSIDE SECTION 2

Even at the age of 80 Lord Menzies still wants to make the world a better place to live in. page 33

Before the dream turned sour: the Duke and Duchess boarding a plane at Heathrow to leave for their honeymoon

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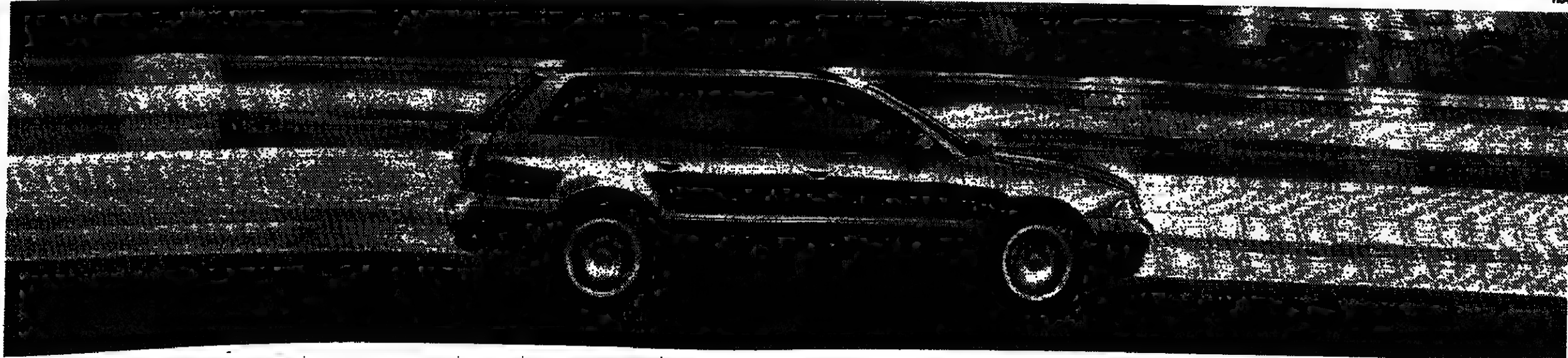
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Alan Coren



■ This month's new tax regulations are a load of rubbish

Here endeth the first week of the rest of my life. It endeth badly, and it endeth at its best: because the here it endeth at is beside the midnight dustbin, whence I can see stretched out before me enough boding to last until that moment when my life has no rest left. This is because what is literally stretched out before me, spread from the bin, ill-met by moonlight, is the domestic detritus of that first week. And, since you ask, the reason I have one hand inside this chicken carcass while the other is shaking old tea-bags onto the path is because Sunday night is when I do my accounts. I did not always do them in the dustbin, mind, I used to do them in the study, scribbling from memory into a little red book with a large Bell's in the first currently up the chicken, but that was in the blissful days before the first week of the rest of my life.

For it was also the first week of the rest of the Inland Revenue's life: the week it launched new tax obligations on the self-employed, obliging them henceforth to employ themselves primarily in the collection of every scrap of paper bearing upon their fiscal lives. Be they never so scrappy, these now have to be produced whenever the taxman decrees, they must be the originals, and they must be kept for six years on pain of a £3,000 fine, per annum, for non-production. I cannot, any longer, scribble "To purchase of Who's Who, £95" in my little red book in the sure and certain knowledge that, come next April, my kindly taxman will reimburse me 40 per cent for this essential professional handmaiden. I now have to show him the Waterstone bill which could well be inside this chicken, hang on, no it isn't, time to spread those old coffee grounds about a bit, but if that's where it is I'll be browned to illegibility by now, eliciting nothing from HM Inspector save an invitation to pull this one, never mind £3,000 for making an unsubstantiated claim.

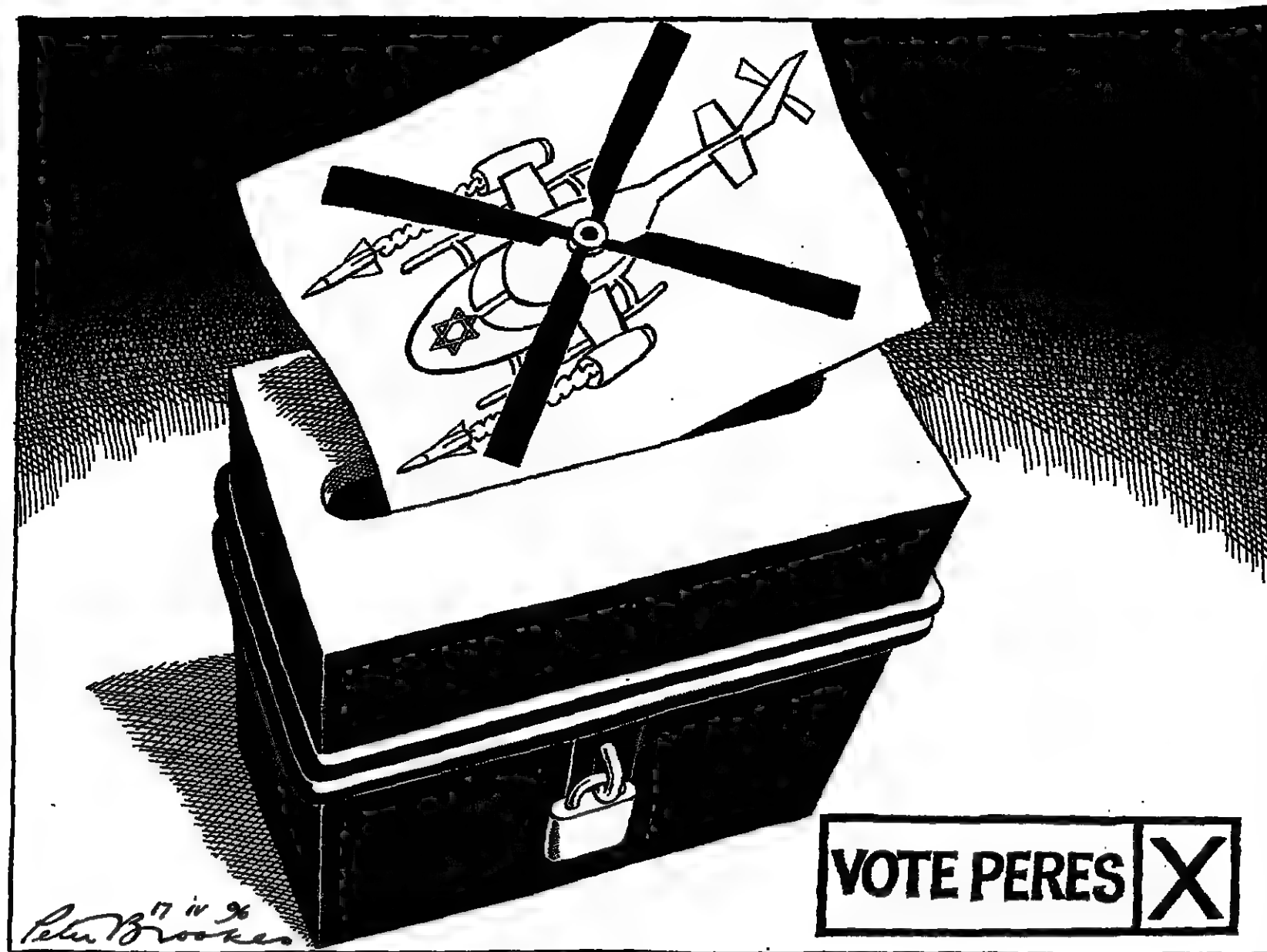
I know I had the bill when I came out of the shop on Wednesday, but all is a blank thereafter. I may have chewed it up on the bus, I have done that all my life with tickets, stared out of the window, chewed; this has not so far stopped me from claiming business travelling expenses, but it will now, it is goodbye staring and chewing. Her Majesty wants to see the tickets, chop-chop.

So I did, I then, go on to the Waterstone bill as a main course, as I once followed an Awayday with a tasty dry-cleaning ticket, and the man said, mousers, what trousers? There's a different problem with Monday's newswatch bill. I went in to buy two box files, one to be neatly labelled "Outgoing", one "Incoming", for all my nice new paperwork, and I was going to make the bill for this professional outgoing the first to be punched and filed, until I looked at it and saw that it had not itemised two non-professional Mars bars and a carton of Silk Cut. It was just a globalised till-receipt. I cannot file that, the Inspector would be on it like a ferret. "£38.60 for box files, I was not born yesterday, sunshine, take him down!"

And I shall have to read all junk mail, now, I gather that, among all the air miles, free T-shirts, cut-price pot-holing breaks, prize socket-sets, etc. the building society, AA, BT, or whatever, often pops in a statement. You have to have these, now, or you get slung in pokey.

I took a cab to the BBC on Tuesday, and, unprecedentedly, asked the driver for a receipt, whereupon he in his turn asked me to do him a favour, and drove off. I may have to give up cabs. And plumbers: the reason this chicken carcass is still whole is that the waste disposal is on the Fritz. I am waiting for the plumber, cash, no receipt, but I still used to jot such items in the little red book. I got 10 per cent against household expenses. Try it now and the taxman could well contact the plumber for documentary corroboration, and the plumber would be round to my premises like a shot. A big man, never without a heavy spanner.

There's always the chance the Waterstone bill will be in my shirt pocket. Something was, before it was a little soggy ball stuck in the washing machine filter. Might have been my bank statement, though; I remember thinking, it's an offence not to file these, I'll put it somewhere safe. Hitherto, of course, inside a chicken would have been as good a place as any. But not now. Now is the rest of my life.



Beef, butchery and Kafka

A ritual slaughter of our cattle herds merely to appease the EU insults the common sense of the British consumer

Simon Jenkins

At last we have a hero in the great beef saga. He is that yeoman of the carvery, that Falstaff of the shires, the British beef eater. To hell with the headlines, he has said. To hell with "a million deaths" and "worse than AIDS", with equivocating ministers and squeamish Eurocrats. To hell with the politics of unreason. Read the small print, says our hero. The risk in eating British beef is trivial. At the last count, sales of beef in the shops were at 85 per cent of the pre-scare levels and sales of steak and joints are actually up.

Over Easter I was reckless. I took my life in my hands and visited a farm. Many urban readers of this newspaper will be unaware of the fury of cattle farmers at what they see as the cross industry of the public debate on BSE. Almost every meadow, in the West, is planted with a placard, begging passers-by not to be deceived by publicity and pleading for the lives of its cows. I find it unimaginable that any London policymaker could have contemplated incinerating every cow in every field on every farm in Britain, and for so feeble a reason as to "restore public confidence".

Yesterday the Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, promised the beef industry a cool £200 million in compensation for recent market disturbances. He all but nationalised the slaughterhouse industry with £110 million to save firms from bankruptcy. This is the sort of bailing out of overcapacity that Tories used to exhort Labour governments for. I cannot see any justification for this money. But then I cannot see any reason for denying British beef access to markets, nor for a policy of slaughter (which is said to be imminent), and I see absolutely none for compensating farmers or renderers with public money.

This industry took a calculated risk, widely acknowledged, in feeding offal tissue to cows. If farmers feel cheated by a supplier, they should do what other businesses do and sue. Farmers are not benefit claimants; not yet. Their incomes rose last year faster than any other occupational group — except perhaps utility executives. Milk quotas are ludicrously valuable. If an inspector closes a hotel or refuses a planning application or finds that a motor car has a faulty component, the victim does not run blubbing to the Government for money. He goes bankrupt. Why is the Treasury such a soft touch for farmers? Mr Hogg said there was no case for a mass cull of cattle. He was thinking in

terms of "tens of thousands", but only provided the European Union lifts its ban. Again compensation will be paid. But the BSE epidemic is declining fast. Any leakage into the food chain, if there has been one, took place in the 1980s. There is no basis in science or statistics or common sense for a cull. Since there is no rational basis for one, there is no basis for spending public money compensating farmers for one, wherever the money comes from. Governments should not use tax revenues as ex gratia payments to remove the risk from capitalism, let alone to induce foreign governments to honour their treaty obligations. Parliament may be a toothless watchdog in these matters, but it is the National Audit Office also as assessor?

As for Europe, I am mystified at the Government's spinelessness. The instant ban on British beef imports to the Continent a month ago appeared to be justified by the European Farm Commissioner, Franz Fischler, on grounds of safety. Now he says it was public relations. "To restore market confidence". In other words, he opened his newspaper one morning, reads (or misreads) the scare comments of some scientist and feels he should act dramatically. What is significant is that he felt under no obligation to allay the scare, but sought rather to legitimise it. The British Government was unwise to politicise the shift in scientific evidence announced by the BSE standing committee last month, a shift which came with advice that no change in policy was needed. The response from Brussels was to fall on this shift and have a fit of hysteria. A full Commission was summoned, followed by a meeting of the august Council of Ministers. Continental Europe went into its most gleeful mode, that of raging Anglophobia. It appeared to be willing on Britain the biggest systematic slaughter of living creatures in British history: of the nation's 12 million cows.

I could sense the Schadenfreude running through the French, German and Belgian Governments as each leapt into action to appease its gloating beef lobbies by banning British imports. French customs officials turned back trucks at Calais. The Germans, with more Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease cases than Britain, went berserk. The bans were blatant constraints on free trade, without legal justification. Seeking to alter market confidence — indeed distorting it by exaggerating risk — is no justification for a trade ban. The 30 per cent of British beef sales that go for export were stopped.

I hate generalised trade sanctions, but I have no doubt what Britain should have done next. After protests in the Council of Ministers had failed, the Cabinet should have retaliated by banning imports of continental beef. These happen to comprise 30 per cent of domestic consumption. That would have balanced the market and raised the negotiating ante.

Instead, Britain is in the hopeless position of not knowing how many healthy cattle it has to kill to get the ban lifted. British ministers must go to the next Luxembourg meeting with an offer to act irrationally (killing healthy cattle) so as to appease the irrationality of their critics, but without knowing how much irrationality (how many cattle) will do the trick.

When policy is motivated by hysteria and hysteria can be sated only by slaughter, there is no knowing where the bloodletting can end. I cannot imagine a better illustration of the madness to which Europe's farm policy has sunk. Some enthusiasts say repatriating agricultural policy to British control would be even worse. Rubbish.

Big government, be it in Whitehall or Brussels, boasts that it embodies reason and efficiency in public administration. It can see the wood above the trees. It can discount grubby local emotions. It can

plan. The distant ruler has the freedom to be sane and the power to make sanity effective. Yet last month, Herr Fischler mimicked Kafka's trial judge. "You object that this is not a trial at all? You are right: it is only a trial when I recognise it as one." A trial is an institution of reason. Herr Fischler does not pretend to reason in this matter. He might have continued with his Kafka, as he shook his loaded wallet at Britain's farmers: "It is often better to be in chains than to be free."

This is madness. The more distant a decision from its point of implementation, the more likely it is to be irrational. The greater the unreason, the greater the error and the greater the likely cruelty. And when Europe-wide bodies act for reasons of "public relations", heaven help us all. I am sure innocent ill ordered the Albigensian massacres to "restore public confidence" in the papacy. I am sure Catherine of Medici let the same about the Huguenots on St Bartholomew's Day. I am sure Mao's order to kill all of China's birds because they ate the crops was applauded by the apparitionists locked in the Great Hall of the People. An instruction to mass slaughter has long been a totem of the efficiency of central authority. The general knows that the order to kill — and to die — is the true test of loyalty. To impress his enemies, Taras Bulba butchered a hundred of his finest warriors. To impress his enemies, John Major will butcher ten thousand of his finest cows.

The public will view such slaughters with horror. The farmers' union, its eyes on compensation, may remark that "this crisis is now beyond the realm of science" and welcome a well-financed slaughter policy. Consumers are reacting with greater maturity. As with all food scares, they have hesitated, heard what they have been told and reacted with common sense. They regard beef as safe, and are eating it again. Europe's consumers will do so as well, in time. They will all blow raspberries at commissioners, ministers and lobbyists who claim to be privy to the confidence of the market.

Consumers are the market, and the market is working. It needs no assistance from Brussels, nor from those who want to turn the English countryside into a bovine charnel house. As for that charnel house, what has happened to veterinary ethics? When vets are told to kill healthy animals to appease Europe's politicians and help businesses with their "public relations", are they not subject to a Hippocratic oath?

Pensions made to measure

Anatole Kaletsky asks if Labour has a pot of gold

If Labour hopes to find a pot of gold to pay for improvements in public services, it has only one place to look. Britain's welfare state may be modest by European standards, but the combined cost to the taxpayer of health, pensions, social security and personal social services is still £130 billion a year, or 46 per cent of total public spending.

As one Labour leader told me, "we can sit here till doomsday and say we will govern without being tax-and-spenders, but we won't be able to prove it unless we can reform the welfare state". Labour says it will save money by putting the jobless back to work. But with macroeconomic policies identical to the Tories — and business policies, such as the minimum wage, which will destroy jobs at the margin — why should we believe such claims? Training and education, even if successful, will help only in the very long term. Reforms in welfare itself could in principle encourage people to work, but Labour's policies in this area are not very different from the Tories'. For example, the vaunted idea of "carrot and stick" measures to get under-25s off the dole will depend entirely on the training carrots: the stick of a 40 per cent benefit cut for those who refuse already exists.

Yet Labour does have a chance to save big money on welfare, building on what the Tories have done. Confronted with growing welfare costs, the Tories said one thing and did two others.

They said they would root out all sorts of scroungers — homeless teenagers, unmarried mothers, refugees and nasty people of that kind. This produced big headlines but small savings. The two things the Tories did were more important: they tried to squeeze better value out of the health service by introducing commercial management; and they quietly restructured the state pension, putting it on a gradually declining trend.

The health experiment was, on balance, a failure, certainly in restoring



public confidence, and probably in reducing costs. Labour will partly reverse it. Some of the reasons for disappointment are similar to those in education: health cannot be rationed by money, and medical workers are motivated partly by non-commercial values. In principle, a market-based health system is hard to devise. In practice, no country has invented a commercial health system more efficient than the state-run NHS.

Labour's main plans can be briefly summed up as follows. The Tory split between health planning and delivery of services will be preserved, but the present renewable contracts between hospitals and health authorities will give way to long-term agreements. Fund-holding will be replaced by a new system of GP commissioning, with large numbers of GPs grouped together to buy services and manage their relations with the NHS. Whether these changes will restore public confidence in the health service is an open question, but in the short term further upheavals are bound to increase costs, even if they do eventually improve morale.

For any hope of saving money, therefore, Labour must turn to pensions. Here a genuine opportunity lies within Labour's grasp. The Tory reforms have tamed the growth of state pensions; so much so that in the next century a National Insurance surplus could make room for substantially lower taxes or higher spending on other programmes. But to continue making savings on state pensions, the government must ensure that people make private provision to stave off poverty in old age. A new "second tier" of private pensions is needed for millions of casual workers outside occupational schemes.

Here Labour's policy, to be announced in detail next month by Chris Smith, promises a genuine advance. The Tories, essentially, want the insurance industry to sell more personal pensions. Labour, however, believes — with good reason — that personal pensions are another instance of market failure: the sales costs of competing insurers make them prohibitively expensive compared with National Insurance or occupational schemes. Labour therefore proposes to create a small number of large and competing schemes, with costs regulated by the government, but investment left to the private sector. The Tories had hoped to portray Labour's pension plans as a new device for creeping nationalisation or covertly raising taxes. But these schemes will not be compulsory and investment will be privately managed.

If Labour managed to pull millions of casual and self-employed workers into pension schemes without compulsion, it could, with a clear conscience, allow the basic state pension to continue to wither away. Gradually there would be leeway for more public spending or lower taxes. The next Labour government, but two might even discover a crack of gold.

P-H-S

Tomorrow, in the Business section: Business, investment and finance.

Rose blooms

DISPLAYING all the unorthodox energies he showed in the former Yugoslavia, General Sir Michael Rose seems to be thriving in his new job as the Army's Adjutant General. Speaking at a conference in London yesterday, he described two incidents which typify the Rose approach to what some might have thought would be a rather dreary desk job for the former SAS officer, overseeing personnel and discipline.

Rose told of the formidable sergeant-major of his own regiment, the Coldstream Guards, who took it upon himself to help his boss in his campaign to boost declining numbers.

Taking advantage of the cash bonuses which can be offered to soldiers as an incentive to stay in the Army, the sergeant-major lined up 43 guardsmen, who had requested to leave, in a room with two tables. On one table was a pile of banknotes. The other was bare.

The guardsmen were told, Rose recounted, that they could leave by one door empty-handed or by the other with £1,000 if they stayed in the Army. "The soldiers took the money," crowed Rose.

On another recent occasion, Rose found himself chatting to a recruiting sergeant. Looking him straight in the eye, Rose asked whether he would be prepared to consider enlisting a teenager who had "taken away a bicycle, was drunk in charge of the bicycle and was riding it without lights". The sergeant, baffled at the question, said yes, he would. Right answer. "Good," said Rose, "because that was me."



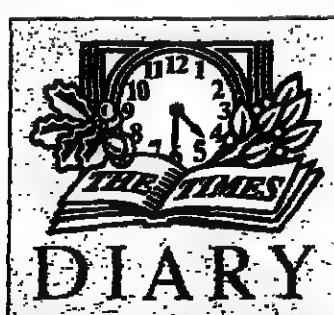
Political heroine of the week is Clare Short, the Shadow Transport Secretary, for her robust stance against the polished toecaps of new Labour. Now more honours. Conservative Central Office has accorded her a nickname: "One Sandwich" Short.

Give him time

UNCONDITIONAL parental support is clearly not a quality admired in the Ingrams household. At an exhibition of works by Fred Ingrams in Chelsea on Monday, the artist's father, Richard, the crumpled editor of *The Oldie*, looked less thanwhelmed. Gazing at the lurid, cellulite-heavy nudes on display, he said: "I'm certainly not buying any. They are rather expensive for me. I might buy one in five years' time though, when he's come to his senses."

Beep beep

PARLIAMENT returned yesterday to find scenes from the Key-stone Kops in New Palace Yard. The cutprits were John Redwood, MP for Wokingham, and his ebullient aide de camp, Hywel Williams. As they pulled past security, one of the guards noticed someone



in the back of Redwood's car taking photographs, a strict security no-no. They were ordered to stop to receive their admonishment. The cars behind grew restless, being forced to nudge backwards and forwards in the ensuing bottleneck. Some were honking. In the car behind Redwood was the quite formidable Dame Janet Fookes, Deputy Speaker and MP for Plymouth Drake, whom one is not advised to incite to road rage. Eager to attend a Speaker's meeting, she found herself sandwiched. "I had to summon my composure," she said bravely. "But I was very British about it. I sat in the queue very patiently without complaining."

Paddy Ashdown has been inspired by Forrest Gump, the celluloid idiot savant who coined the

phrase "stupid is as stupid does". Asked at the launch of his party's local election campaign on Monday whether he felt threatened by Tony Blair's stranglehold on the political centre, he replied — perhaps showing more idiot than savant — "Well, centre is as centre does."

Last lunch

POPEYE had his spinach. Wellington had his beef, but for England's cricketers, nothing will quite do like the food of Nancy Doyle. When the England team step out at Lord's this summer, however, they will be the first England side in 35 years to play at the ground without Mrs Doyle's victuals churning inside them. The mistress of the roasting pan has retired.

Mrs Doyle's food was manly, good — and always served with chips. For the heavier sort of player, Ian Botham and Mike Gatting, for instance, third helpings were standard.

"She has been a stern disciplinarian," says Dennis Silk, chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board. "No cricketer dared to go into lunch improperly dressed because he knew Nancy would send him out to smarten up. Even



Mrs Doyle at home at Lord's

British Prime Ministers have cowered beneath her gaze." Nothing less than a place on the board of selectors will do for her.

With the announcement that the divorce of the Duke and Duchess of York should be cleared by May, York precedent is being followed. The only Duke of York to divorce was Henry VIII. The two wives who received the 16th-century equivalent of their divorce papers also did so in May.

Maladministration by trustees

Wild v Pensions

Before Mr Justice Carnwath
(Judgment April 2)

When a pension scheme gave trustees power to make a lump sum payment to dependants of a deceased member, the trustees had not properly exercised their discretion when they made the payment to a person who had cohabited with the deceased and whose dependants were dependent on him out of choice rather than out of necessity.

Mr Justice Carnwath sitting in the Queen's Bench Division so held, dismissing an appeal by John Allen Wild, a former trustee, from a decision of the Pensions Ombudsman who found that the trustees of the Delta Fund Pension Scheme had exercised their discretion in a manner which constituted maladministration.

Mr Timothy Carlisle for Mr Wild, Mr Nicholas Randall for the Ombudsman.

MR JUSTICE CARNWATH said that the deceased, Keith Hindle-Smith, was a member and also a trustee of the scheme which was established by a trust deed made in June 1985 for the benefit of employees and directors of Moneys International Ltd.

He had then completed a lump sum death benefit nomination form stating that in the event of his death he wished the benefit to be

divided equally between his son, Anthony Smith, and his daughter, Tracey Hartley. The deceased died intestate in August 1995.

The rules of the fund provided that in the event of death before the age of 75 the trustees had power to pay the benefit to the "dependants, relatives or legal personal representatives of the member".

In the period before his death, the deceased, who was divorced, had lived with Mrs Carol Slack. The appellant and the two other trustees decided to exercise their discretion in relation to the £140,000 standing to the credit of the deceased by paying £80,000 in cash to Mrs Slack and by establishing a trust fund of £60,000, with the income to be paid to Mrs Slack for life and the deceased's two children to be entitled to the capital in equal shares the event of her death.

The deceased's son complained to the Occupational Pensions Advisory Service who referred the matter to the Pensions Ombudsman. The appellant had by then retired as a trustee but continued to deal with the matter.

The Ombudsman ruled that the trustees' exercise for exercising their discretion in favour of Mrs Slack as "being the lady with whom the deceased had been living for some time" did not of itself suggest that she was financially dependent on the deceased.

neither did the facts that he was paying the household bills at his address or that he had spent some of his own money to refurbish a cottage which she owned.

The Ombudsman held that there had been no valid exercise of discretion by the trustees and ordered that the full amount of the benefit be paid to the son as legal personal representative.

He further ordered that each trustee pay £500 to the deceased's son and daughter to compensate them for their "injustice beyond pecuniary loss involving distress and inconvenience as a result of the trustees' maladministration".

His Lordship said that the Ombudsman was correct in his decision as to Mrs Slack's dependency. There was no evidence before the trustees, or indeed the Ombudsman, that she was not able to look after herself if required to do so. As she explained, she gave up her financial independence in response to the deceased's wishes, but that was a matter of choice and not of necessity.

Although the Ombudsman did not specifically distinguish between his two functions under the Pensions Act 1995 in 1993 in regard to points of fact or law on the one hand and maladministration on the other, the sequence of his reasoning was clear enough to show that he had considered the matter properly.

He was perfectly entitled to conclude that the trustees had not investigated the matter as they should have and that that constituted maladministration.

As to how appropriate it was to order the appellant to pay compensation to the children, his Lordship said that it was important that before making such an order the Ombudsman should take into account who ultimately was going to bear the cost of the compensation.

The Ombudsman was unaware that the appellant had ceased to be a trustee. The pension scheme clearly provided that a trustee was not to be held personally liable in the absence of dishonesty or wilful breach.

The draftsman of that clause did not have in mind the possibility of awards for distress and inconvenience. There was nothing which would justify imposing a personal liability on a trustee contrary to the clear intention of the trust deed which was the basis upon which he undertook his trust.

It would be wrong to allow the award against the appellant to stand unless and until the Ombudsman had satisfied himself that it would not result in a personal liability on the appellant which would not be met out of the trust fund.

Solicitors: Rayfield; John Yolland, Putney.

Regina v Islington London Borough Council, Ex parte Rixon

Before Mr Justice Sedley
(Judgment March 15)

A local authority exercising its duty to arrange for recreational and gateway educational facilities for a disabled person was obliged to take into account practice guidance issued by the Department of Health.

Further, in reaching its decision as to the provision of care services to a disabled person in need, a local authority could not depart without good reason from the policy guidance issued by the secretary of state. Where the disabled person had leading difficulties, the local authority must consistently take into account non-statutory guidance from the Department of Education.

Mr Justice Sedley so stated in the Queen's Bench Division in a reserved judgment when allowing an application for judicial review by Jonathan Rixon, by his mother and next friend Stephanie Rixon, of a decision of the London Borough of Islington received in late February 1995 as to the provision, inter alia, of community care services.

His Lordship granted declarations requiring that in exercising its powers and duties under the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990 and section 2 of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 the local authority take into account the practice guidance issued by the Department of Health and stating that it had acted unlawfully in carrying out its duty under section 47(1)(b) of the 1990 Act in deviating without good reason from the policy guidance issued under section 7 of the 1970 Act by the secretary of state.

Miss Jennifer Richards for Mr Rixon; Mr Roger McCarthy for the local authority.

MR JUSTICE SEDLEY said that section 47 of the 1990 Act created a duty to assess the needs of a disabled person and to decide what local authority provision they called for, but not to implement the decision.

Section 2(1) of the 1970 Act created the principal duty to respond to assessed need. It was a positive duty to arrange for recreational and gateway educational facilities for disabled persons. It was a duty owed to the individuals and not simply a target duty.

Section 2(1) incorporated in turn the provisions of section 7(1) of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 which obliged local authorities to act under the general guidance of the secretary of state. In his Lordship's judgment, Parliament in enacting section 7(1) did not intend local authorities to whom ministerial guidance was given to be free, having considered

it, to take it or leave it. A local authority was required to follow the path charted by the secretary of state's guidance, with liberty to deviate from it where the local authority judged on admissible grounds that there was a good reason to do so, but without freedom to take a substantially different course. The ministerial guidance was *Caring for People: Community Care in the New Decade and Beyond: Policy Guidance* (HMSO 1990).

A failure to comply with the statutory policy guidance was unlawful and could be corrected by judicial review; see *R v North Yorkshire County Council, Ex parte Hargreaves* (The Times November 9, 1994).

A failure to comply with a review panel's recommendations was not by itself a breach of the law; but the greater the departure, the greater the need for cogent, articulated reasons if the court was not to infer that the panel's recommendations had been overlooked.

A second source of considerations which manifestly had to be taken into account was the practice guidance issued by the Department of Health in 1994, the form of a practitioners' guide entitled *Care Management and Assessment* (HMSO, fifth impression, 1994), which outlined a set of principles derived from current views of practice.

The guidance counselled against trimming the assessment of need to fit the available provision. That properly reflected the law.

There were two points at which, in his Lordship's judgment, the authority had fallen below the requirements of the law. The first concerned the relationship of need to availability.

As Lord Justice McCowan had stated in *R v Gloucestershire County Council, Ex parte Mahford* (The Times June 21, 1995), the section 2(1) exercise was needed and not resources-led. The authority had not undertaken anything like the exercise of adjusting provision to need described in *Ex parte Mahford*.

The second concerned a failure to comply with the policy guidance. If that guidance was to be departed from it must be with good reason, articulated in the course of some identifiable decision-making process even if not in the care plan itself.

The care plan also failed at a number of points to comply with the practice guidance. While such guidance lacked the status accorded by section 7 of the 1970 Act, it was something to which regard must be had in carrying out the statutory functions.

There was a duty under section 41 of the Education Act 1944 to secure provision for adequate educational facilities for a person

over school age with learning difficulties. That duty was a target duty and in the present case the local authority was in breach by failing to secure provision for persons with difficulties as severe as Mr Rixon's.

While it was at least conceivable that a local authority might conclude that in relation to some of the gravest learning difficulties, the duty under section 41 of the 1944 Act could be met by provision under section 2 of the 1970 Act, it was not for the court to adjudicate on whether Mr Rixon had been met with educational needs capable of being met which were not co-extensive with the recreational facilities called for by section 2 of the 1970 Act.

However, it was something which the local authority had to take very seriously and assess with care and sensitivity.

For reasons given earlier in relation to non-statutory guidance, the local authority had consistently to take into account the circular issued by the Department of Education in coming to its decision (Circular 1/93, issued January 5, 1993).

In the event of an alleged breach of section 41 of the 1944 Act, the proper recourse was to appeal to the secretary of state.

Solicitors: Ms Marion Chester; Ms Marie Rosenthal, Islington.

No interest on premature tax assessment

Billingham (Inspector of Taxes) v Myers

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Aldous and Sir John Balcombe
(Judgment March 27)

An assessment raised under section 88 of the Taxes Management Act 1970 on interest on tax recovered to make good loss due to taxpayer's fault, at a time when the tax could still be paid on or before the due date, albeit that the neglect of the taxpayer had caused the Crown to lose its right to recover it on that date, was not made for the purposes of making good a loss of tax and thus the tax charged could not carry interest under section 88(1).

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the Crown from the decision of Mr Justice Knox (The Times December 6, 1994; [1994] STC 1016) that had upheld a determination of Hampstead general commissioners allowing in part an appeal by taxpayer, Mr Martin Trevor Myers, against a determination made on March 10, 1992 by the inspector of taxes with regard to interest on an assessment to tax on capital gains of £3 million for the year ending April 5, 1988.

Section 88 of the 1970 Act, now substituted by sections 159, 160 and 179 of the Finance Act 1989, provides:

"(1) Where an assessment has been made for the purpose of making good to the Crown a loss of tax wholly or partly attributable to the neglect of any person, the tax charged by the assessment... shall carry interest at the prescribed rate from the date on which the tax ought to have been paid until payment."

Section 7 of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979 provides: "Capital gains tax assessed on any person in respect of gains accruing in any year shall be payable by that person on or before 1 December following the end of that year, or at the expiration of a period of 30 days after the date of the issue of the notice of assessment, whichever is the later."

Mr Alan Moses, QC, and Mr Timothy Brennan for the Crown; Mr Kevin Prosser for Mr Myers.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the appeal raised a question of construction on section 88(1) of the 1970 Act. The authorities established that there could be a "loss of tax" if tax was paid late.

The question was whether an assessment was "made for the

purpose of making good... a loss of tax" if it was made at a time when the tax could still be paid on or before the due date, albeit that the neglect of the taxpayer had caused the Crown to lose its right to recover it on that date.

The taxpayer's return was issued to him on April 6, 1988, requiring its return within 30 days. He sent it to the Revenue on November 1. The taxpayer accepted that that amounted to "neglect" on his part.

On November 7 the assessment was issued. It followed from section 7 of the 1979 Act that the tax assessed was not payable until December 7. Had it not been for the taxpayer's neglect, the assessment could have been made on or before November 1 and the tax would have been payable on December 1.

Both sides were agreed that the question whether an assessment fell within section 88(1) or not had to be judged as at the date on which it was made. As at November 7 the tax might or might not be paid on or before December 1.

If it was paid after that date, manifestly there would be a loss of tax. If it was paid on or before that date, manifestly there would be no loss of tax; the Crown would be in

no worse a position than if the assessment had been made on or before November 1.

Could it then be said that the assessment was made for the purpose of making good a loss of tax? It could not. True, there was a potential loss. But a potential loss, in ordinary parlance, was not a loss.

Moreover, as Mr Prosser submitted, you did not make a potential loss good. You might prevent its occurrence. But until it occurred there was no occasion for making it good.

The assessment was not made for the purpose of making good to the Crown a loss of tax. It was made for the purpose of collecting tax due which, at the date it was made, had not yet been lost.

The primary argument of Mr Moses was that, in the context of a neglect consisting of a failure to make a return in due time, "loss of tax" meant loss of the right to recover tax on the date on which it would have been payable but for the neglect. That was unacceptable as a permissible construction of the material words in section 88(1).

LORD JUSTICE ALDOUS and Sir John Balcombe agreed.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue; Berwin Leighton.

Risk of harm was foreseeable

Margereson v J. W. Roberts Ltd

Before Lord Justice Russell, Lord Justice Sedley and Lord Justice Oun
(Judgment April 2)

The owner of an asbestos factory should reasonably have foreseen a risk of some pulmonary injury to children playing in the factory loading bay and was therefore liable when they developed mesothelioma.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by J. W. Roberts Ltd from a decision of Mr Justice Holland on October 27, 1995 awarding £50,000 to Evelyn Margereson, a widow, and administratrix of Mr Arthur Margereson who died from mesothelioma in December 1991, and £55,000 to Mrs June Marjorie Hancock, who developed mesothelioma in 1992.

Mr William Woodward, QC, and Mr Jonathan Harvey for the appellants; Mr Wingate Saul, QC, and Mr David Allen for Mrs Margereson; Mr Robin Stewart, QC, and Mr Andrew Spink for Mrs Hancock.

LORD JUSTICE RUSSELL giving the judgment of the court, said that the appellants' factory in Armley, Leeds, had deposited enormous amounts of asbestos dust outside its perimeter. It was never disputed by the defendants that the steps taken by them to alleviate the problem of dust contamination were woefully inadequate.

Mr Margereson and Mrs Holland had played as children in the loading bay where contamination was of a very high order indeed.

Despite suggestions to the contrary, there were not two cases and the outcome of their cases did not preempt those of other possible claimants. The only legal issue in the appeal concerned the duty owed by the defendants to the two plaintiffs. Lord Lloyd in *Page v Smith* (The Times May 12, 1996; [1996] 1 AC 153, 180) had stated: "The test in every case ought to be whether the defendant can reasonably foresee that his conduct will expose the plaintiff to the risk of personal injury."

Their Lordships took the view that in this case liability attached to the defendants only if the evidence demonstrated that they should reasonably have foreseen a risk of some pulmonary injury, not necessarily mesothelioma.

Mr Woodward had submitted that it was not until 1933 that, on the judge's findings, the defendants could be regarded as fixed with adequate knowledge of the potential dangers of asbestos.

In Mr Margereson's case, it was argued, his administratrix could not discount the possibility that he had acquired mesothelioma by playing in the loading bay before 1933, when the defendants were arguably unaware of the risk of developing that condition, so were not culpably lacking in foresight.

In their Lordships' view, the information which should have operated upon the defendants' corporate mind was in existence long before Mr Margereson was born in 1925.

No distinction could sensibly be drawn between the position of employees working within the factory and the plaintiffs. The judge had been entitled to find as he did that the conditions at the loading bay were such that, superimposed upon the conditions in the neighbourhood as a whole, it was more probable than not that mesothelioma was then contracted.

Solicitors: Jacksons, Middlesbrough; Irwin Mitchell, Sheffield.

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As the millennium approaches, television programme-makers are becoming obsessed with the paranormal

The BBC is losing touch with reality

When I predicted that 1996 would see the outbreak of millenarianism, I never thought it would be so bad. As the magic date approaches, the supernatural is all over our screens, and I'm not just talking about Anne and Nick's *Good Morning* phone-in on extra-terrestrials yesterday. Ghosts, ghosts and flying saucers are now being publicised by the BBC as, if you please, "fact".

There are no ghosts. I thought this was a generally accepted fact — not a controversial proposition such as "There is no God". But the BBC's current series, *Secrets of the Paranormal*, prepared by its feet-on-the-ground Community Programme Unit, allows mystic-communers to proclaim, unchallenged, their unearthly powers. Tomorrow night will give us Raymond, a man who, putting on a funny voice and staring at the camera in a meaningful way, tells

us he is also "Paul", the ghost of a doctor who died 2,000 years ago. Fair enough. If Raymond thinks he is inhabited by Paul, no matter — unless, as in one of the most repellent scenes I have seen offered for early-evening television, he burrows loopy fingers into an ailing old man's pesty flesh, and claims to locate the bladder.

Raymond says cheerfully that he has never had any medical training but Paul did, 2,000 years ago (that magic number). Whereupon Paul speaks up: "There's no difference between me and conventional doctors... Just because I'm dead shouldn't make any difference."

It should make a difference to the BBC. The national broadcasting organisation ought not to be putting out this rubbish. At very

least the BBC should append a health warning, or an earnest studio discussion of the kind that followed Joan Bakewell's discovery in the Holy Land, in time for Easter, of tombs marked Jesus, Mary and Joseph. (If BBC's *Heart of the Matter* does not win a Comedy of the Year award for this account of Joan's descent into the sepulchre, there is no justice).

Context is all, you'll agree. The realm of mystery is universally popular: witness the success of *The X-Files*, a hot favourite now on both Sky and the BBC. But the unexplained as entertainment is one thing. David Copperfield claims only to be an illusionist, performing wondrous tricks we can't understand. Uri Geller, on the other hand, claims psychic



BRENDA MADDOX

powers and gets next week's *Secrets of the Paranormal* all to himself to claim, among other things, the healing power of his "energised" teddy bears.

More of the same comes in July, with *Out of This World*, another six-parter on ghosts, poltergeists

and psychic or out-of-body experiences. It promises a balanced look at the unexplained — that is, it will give equal weight to the sceptics. Is this balance? To present science as just another point of view?

In June, to be sure, the BBC will offer *Strange Days*, an inquiry into modern superstition. It is hardly reassuring, however, that this inquiry into "the retreat from reason" will take in both alternative medicine and psychotherapy — treatments provided by the NHS.

The BBC needs to apply the smack of firm editorship if this phantasmic tendency is not to get out of hand before the year 2000. Some things are still beyond the pale: wrestling, shopping, stripping. Ghostly communicating belongs there too, especially when

you consider the basis of its appeal — hope offered to those suffering from incurable illness or grief.

The placard-wavers on last week's *Secrets of the Paranormal* demanded the public's right to know what "secret" information the Ministry of Defence holds on UFOs. Oh yes. Meanwhile, the documents of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, the publication of which has landed *The Economist* in hot water, show the commission about to approve two giant power mergers knowing that these are not in the public interest. The report, prepared for the Department of Trade and Industry, also reveals that one of the MMC's advisers, Patricia Hodgson, the

BBC's director of policy and planning, courageously dissented from the decision, pointing out that the mergers would put up the price of electricity. What better information to keep from the public?

The hoary old official argument — that outsiders will not give advice to government agencies unless they are assured of secrecy — has been demolished by the one regulatory agency worthy of the name. Ofel, the telecommunications watchdog. When it invites opinions on proposed policies, Ofel asks that the responses submitted be allowed to be made public. It will promise confidentiality on request, but gives warning that such views may then be given less weight because they are not open to challenge.

Now there's an idea for the BBC. How about "Secrets of Government Departments"? A series that would unquestionably come from beyond the Great Divide.

Is Auntie even-handed?

Alexandra Frean on television's political coverage



Female interviewers such as Kirsty Wark, left, and Sue MacGregor are better at getting politicians to stick to the point

No one was more surprised to read on the front page of yesterday's *Daily Mail* that BBC interviewers were too "soft" on Labour politicians, than the two people who were supposed to have made the accusation.

Lord Skidelsky, a former SDP member now on the Left of the Tory party, and Jean Lambert, a Green Party activist, had been invited by the BBC to analyse the corporation's political output.

Having studied a selection of television and radio programmes, they had indeed expressed doubts about whether the BBC "tested all parties with equal rigour". They concluded that the corporation's interviewers "failed to test Labour politicians... by allowing them to avoid elaborating on their alternatives to government policies and by failing to question whether big changes that they proposed were really needed".

The two singled out a February edition of BBC's *On the Record*, in which Peter Mandelson, MP, adviser to Tony Blair, was interviewed by John Humphrys. Mr Mandelson had been more closely questioned about his view that there should be "super ministries" to oversee Whitehall, they said.

What surprised Skidelsky and Lambert was not that their supposedly confidential report should have been leaked to the *Daily Mail*, but that their remarks on political

impartiality should have assumed headline proportions. "My view really was that the BBC and the rest of the media do not just report news. They create it," Skidelsky says. "I never thought of this exercise as a news event, but I have been rung up by ten newspapers about it. A news item has been made out of nothing. This is a prime example of what I was saying."

If the BBC does have a tendency to be more intimidating towards the Tories than the other parties, Skidelsky believes, it is not so much due to an inherent left-wing bias, but simply "because the Tories have more to answer for as they are in power". The main thrust of Skidelsky's analysis

concerns not impartiality, but the fact that the BBC's coverage has become overly reliant on superficial soundbites, which encourage politicians to tailor their discourse. Head-to-head interviews in particular have become knockabout and point-scoring "sporting spectacles", which often fail to inform or stimulate.

Skidelsky and Lambert believe that by adopting a lower-key style of interviewing, women interviewers, such as Sue MacGregor and Kirsty Wark, are more effective than men at getting politicians to address issues and stick to the point. Lambert's spokeswoman says her comments about political impartiality have been taken "massively out of

context". More important, she says, is the report's conclusion that the BBC's political coverage focuses too much on Westminster with journalists and politicians sharing the same narrow agenda.

As Skidelsky and Lambert believe it would be healthy for political leaders not to assume that anything they say would be automatically covered by the BBC, they suggest the corporation drops its coverage of Prime Minister's Questions for a six-month trial. The BBC denies the specific charge that it was too soft on Mr Mandelson, but recognises the need for rigorous testing of all politicians from all sides.

Tony Hall, head of news and current affairs at the BBC,

says that the report is part of a rolling programme examining its overall news coverage. "Any self-respecting journalistic organisation needs to sit down and look at whether it is getting to the right stories and the right people," he says.

In addition to helping it to expand the range of its news and current affairs coverage, Hall hopes such exercises will allow it to get to the heart of the "big issues" that affect people's lives.

Given the increased pressure from the Government for the BBC to make itself more accountable to its licence-payers, it would be perverse of the corporation not to seek the views of outsiders about how well it is achieving this.

Melvyn Marckus on the tycoon's new weekend read

ACCORDING to financial folklore the archetypal tycoon arrives at his desk at 6am and moves at least one mountain before ordinary mortals report for duty.

Sunday, the day of rest, presumably represents a dread prospect for such businessmen, but since the birth of the Sunday business sections, led by *The Sunday Times*, Fleet Street has striven to fill the void.

Sunday business journalism represents a business in itself. The broadsheets, led on circulation by *The Sunday Times* and *The Sunday Telegraph*, compete for exclusive financial news. In the business arena, knowledge often equates to power, and any business section that is perceived as a must-read enjoys a guaranteed audience. Nor would any drawing room be complete on Sunday without a few inches of money and personal-finance supplement.

Joining the business of Sunday morning



Rubythorn's dummy issue

SUNDAY READING

Average business readership:

- 1 Sunday Times 317,000
- 2 Mail on Sunday 241,000
- 3 Sunday Express 129,000
- 4 Sunday Telegraph 125,000
- 5 Observer 102,000
- 6 Independent on Sun 76,000

Sources: BMRB British Business Survey 1995. Weighed by population

shareholders, but confirms a "close relationship" with the Bloomberg wire service. This close relationship is reflected in *Sunday Business's* section-four offering, *Bloomberg Trading Week*, a financial section designed for City professionals.

Whatever the identity of the backers, some £1 million will be poured into television advertising during this week, Rubythorn, 40, admits he is "not too keen" to discuss

over the ensuing six weeks.

A breakdown of *Sunday Business's* veritable mountain of paper represents no mean task. The front page of the broadsheet cover-section looks remarkably like certain established rivals, and, according to the blurb, "several scoops" will appear each week. *Business & Finance* is a tabloid colour supplement highlighting stories "based on people". A diary by Peter de Savary is threatened.

Money & Life, supplement three, mingles the Peps and the Tassas with lifestyle, in the shape of travel, property, motoring and entertaining. After *Bloomberg* comes a *Computer Age* supplement, edited by John Lamb, former Editor of *Computer Weekly*. *Appointments* heralds "a host of top job opportunities". The price of all this? 85p.

According to Rubythorn, *Sunday Business* requires a circulation of 150,000 to break even. The make-or-buy factor will be the calibre of those "scoops". City practitioners are hard taskmasters.

The Sunday broadsheets are used to competition — and to seeing it off. It was no coincidence that *The Sunday Times* last week launched a Stock Market Challenge with weekly prizes worth £10,000 and also published its annual survey of Britain's rich — or that *The Mail on Sunday* published its 32-page serialisation of a new biography of the Queen inside its business section. *The Sunday Telegraph* is also being revamped this weekend.

The best *Sunday Business* can expect, in respect of the City professional market, is to become a second buy to one of the established Sunday papers with strong business sections. If Rubythorn can persuade 150,000 buyers to do that, he could succeed — but his rivals don't rate his chances.

Which companies do Britain's top earners rate? Alex Benady finds some surprising answers

Hey, big spender

Even the upper-middle classes aspire. You might therefore expect their favourite brand names to be luxury goods — perhaps Aspreys, Rolls-Royce or Gucci. The truth, however, is far more mundane. According to Premier TGI, a definitive new survey, the well-heeled hook their grocers and foreign car manufacturers in the highest regard.

Marks & Spencer emerges as the company rated most highly in a survey of 5,500 professionals and senior managers, the elite "ABs" of marketing parlance. Sainsbury checks in at number two with arch rival Tesco at number five. Mercedes, BMW and Volvo earn third, fourth and tenth place respectively.

Two media companies, the establishment BBC and relative newcomer Walt Disney, put in appearances at number six and seven, and the ubiquitous Virgin pops up at number eight.

Precisely why Mars gains ninth place in the bourgeois



ABs love foreign cars

THE AB FAVOURITES	
The ten companies most highly rated by all ABs	The ten most highly rated by AB Times readers
1 Marks & Spencer	1 Microsoft
2 Sainsbury	2 Renault
3 Mercedes	3 Nike
4 BMW	4 Esso
5 Tesco	5 Unilever
6 BBC	6 Peugeot Talbot
7 Disney	7 Mercedes
8 Virgin	8 Body Shop
9 Mars	9 British Airways
10 Volvo	10 Seab

Jones, familiarity is the one thing that all the top ten companies have in common. "They are brand names which people encounter every day and they deliver consistently," he says.

The results may give the top companies a warm glow but the significance of this survey goes way beyond a mere popularity poll. There are ten million ABs in the UK, accounting for 22 per cent of the population. Although the term AB refers to occupation, not wealth, they have an average household income of

£31,000 a year compared with the national average of £19,000. So they account for at least a third of all spending — more in some luxury markets.

What's more, because they have positions of power and authority, ABs often set the agenda for what the remaining three quarters of the population should consume.

The problem for marketers is that ABs are notoriously hard to reach with advertising. They watch just two thirds the average amount of commercial television, and they are often fiercely resistant to its blandishments. "You have to know exactly what they watch, what they read and what they consume," explains Glen Parker, media researcher at advertising agency J. Walter Thompson.

The exercise reveals that the British upper-middle classes are not quite the homogeneous bunch you might have thought. For instance, *Times* readers are decidedly modern and cosmopolitan in the companies they rate highly.

Keeping hold of the magnificent eight

Programme	Date	Time	Channel	Genre	Aud. (m)
1 The 1996 Grand National	Sat 30	15.00	BBC1	Horse Racing	11.2
2 1996 Grand Nat Re-run	Sat 30	16.20	BBC1	Horse Racing	8.6
3 Match Of The Day Live	Sun 31	13.15	BBC1	Football	7.3
4 Brazilian Grand Prix	Sat 30	16.45	BBC2	Motor Racing	5.7
5 Final Score	Sat 30	17.05	BBC1	Composite	5.2
6 Brazilian Grand Prix	Sat 30	18.00	BBC1	Motor Racing	5.1
7 Grandstand	Sat 30	13.15	BBC1	Composite	4.8
8 Match Of The Day	Sun 31	22.21	BBC1	Football	3.8
9 Sportsnight	Wed 27	22.25	BBC1	Composite	3.7
10 Grandstand: Football Focus	Sat 30	12.25	BBC1	Football	3.0
11 Big Fight	Sat 30	23.49	ITV	Boxing	2.0
12 Inter Football - Eng v Bul	Wed 27	20.00	SKY5	Football	1.7
13 FA Cup - Liverpool v Aston V	Sun 31	16.00	SKY5	Horse Racing	1.6
14 Racing From Aintree	Thu 28	16.01	BBC2	Motor Racing	1.5
15 Grand Prix Highlights	Sun 31	22.21	BBC2	Composite	1.4
16 The Greatest	Mon 25	20.30	CH4	Football	1.1
17 Champions League Special	Sat 30	13.13	ITV	Football	1.1
18 Rugby Special	Sun 31	15.45	BBC2	Rugby	1.1
19 FA Cup Final	Mon 25	20.00	SKY5	Football	0.9
20 NBA Raw	Thu 28	18.00	CH4	Basketball	0.7

BMRB (Broadcasters Audience Research Board) Data: Graham & Associates, 01252-322828. Copyright © 1996. All rights reserved. Reproduction of this material is prohibited. Highest audience figures per week only. *Approximate figures.

AS the Commons debate on the Broadcasting Bill reopens this week, attention is focusing again on the issue of sports rights and on the eight "listed" events that are currently protected for terrestrial television.

The eight are the Grand National, the Wimbledon finals weekend, the FA Cup Final, The Scottish FA Cup Final, the Olympic Games, the FIFA World Cup Finals, the home Test cricket and the Derby.

Although the World Cup

and the Olympics tend to get the highest audiences, the Grand National regularly comes a close third. This year's audience of 11.2 million is slightly down on 1995's 11.9 million and considerably lower than the 1994 figure of 16 million.

It is, however, well within the event's 10 million to 16 million average audience. In addition, this year the event took a spectacular 78 per cent share of the available audience.

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70th Birthday

TO mark the Queen's 70th birthday, *The Times*, in association with Royal Mail, offers you an exclusive limited edition commemorative cover for only £4.99, including p&p.

The official birthday label (top right), showing Her Majesty dressed in blue and with Windsor Castle in the background, is attached to four first class stamps. This is the only Royal Mail issue approved by Buckingham Palace to mark Her Majesty's 70th birthday. The stamps are provided by Royal Mail with *The Times* logo, dated 21 April 96.

A reproduction sepia photograph with a gold border shows the future King George VI and Queen Mother when they were the Duke and Duchess of York, with Princess Elizabeth, born on April 21, 1926. Affixed next to the photograph is a genuine mint George VI stamp.

The printing, including *The Times's* name and address, is in royal blue on a cream background.

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NEWS

Duke and Duchess of York divorce

The Duke and Duchess of York will today be granted a "quickie" divorce to end their ten-year marriage, it was announced in a joint statement by their solicitors last night.

The couple's case will be heard in the Family Division of the High Court at Somerset House, London, this morning, and a decree absolute is expected by the end of May. The statement said the decision was a personal one and their two daughters would continue to live with the Duchess. Pages 1, 12, 18, 19

Britain challenges EU over beef ban

The Government again put itself on collision course with Brussels with a legal challenge to the EU's worldwide ban on the export of British beef and a £1 billion package of measures to help the industry. It confirmed compensation for destroying up to a million older cattle a year. Pages 1, 12, 18, 19

Para-glider recovers

A para-glider who hit a mountain at 100mph expects to make a full recovery. Pat Dolan escaped from a mile-high free-fall with a broken right leg and three crushed vertebrae. Page 5

Still dancing

Come Dancing, Britain's longest-running television show, has been revived and returns for a 47th year after the BBC was deluged with letters and petitions demanding its return. Page 5

Pelters warned

A teacher and three students were warned that they could be sent to prison after being convicted of pelting Dr Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, with flour and paint. Page 6

Parents protest

The parents of Louise Jensen, the tour guide killed in Cyprus by three British soldiers, have had no apology or compensation from the Army. Pages 6, 19

Mandelson trip

Barclays Bank financed a 10-day trip to South East Asia by Peter Mandelson to assure companies that they would be safe under new Labour. Page 10

IRA bomber inquest

Edward O'Brien, an IRA terrorist who died when the bomb he was carrying exploded prematurely on a London bus, had already planted a similar device. Page 8

Goat heaven for Brixton spree boys

Oxford University Press has produced the first dictionary of the *lingua franca* of the anglophone West Indies, where 5.5 million people claim a vibrant brand of English as their mother tongue. Fun-loving chaps will be in a state of bliss over the publication — or as the dictionary would have it, spree boys will be in kiddie kingdom or goat heaven. Page 6

Cancer weapon

A new weapon against cancer, which blocks malignant cells and could prove effective for many of the commonest forms of the disease, has begun patient trials, scientists announced. Page 11

Going Dutch

The Dutch parliament voted to grant homosexual partners all the legal rights and duties of married couples, putting Holland far ahead of other European states in the area of gay rights. Page 13

Russian bunker

Russia has for years been using tens of thousands of workers to construct an underground military complex in the southern Ural Mountains, the US Administration said. Page 13

Ustinov is 75

Sir Peter Ustinov celebrated his 75th birthday in Berlin with characteristic style — talking wittily in a foreign language to 1,000 prominent guests. Page 13

Lebanon progress

Negotiations spearheaded by the US have made progress towards drawing up a complex agreement to halt the week-old violence in Lebanon. Page 14

Death threats

Six months after the referendum on the sovereignty of Quebec, English-speakers in Montreal have had death threats from militant francophones. Page 15



Some of the 4,000 clansmen on the battlefield to commemorate the dead of Culloden, fought 250 years ago yesterday. Page 20

BUSINESS

British Telecom: Merger talks between Cable and Wireless and BT have advanced to the point where C&W has put on hold its search for a new chief executive. Page 25

Tesco: Britain's biggest supermarket group is to create 4,000 new jobs by opening 24 new stores this year. Page 25

Ostrich: The Serious Fraud Office is expected to call on the FBI and other overseas agencies to help to investigate the Ostrich Farming Corporation. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 34.8 points to close at 3825.3. Sterling's trade-weighted index remained unchanged at 83.6 after a rise from \$1.5077 to \$1.5082 but a fall from DM2.2769 to DM2.2766. Page 28

SPORT

Football: Jason Wilcox, Blackburn Rovers' uncapped winger, was a surprise choice in the England squad for next week's World Cup match against Croatia. Page 48

Rugby union: England's decision to negotiate separate television rights has brought a fortnight's response from the other home unions, who will review their international relationships. Page 48

Cricket: The opening first-class match of the season, between Oxford University and Leicestershire, ended in a draw. Page 44

Equestrianism: Nick Skelton will attempt to win the Volvo World Cup on Dollar Girl for the second successive year in Geneva. John Whitaker is the only other Briton in a field of 40. Page 44

ARTS

Meruhin at 80: As he approaches his 80th birthday, next Monday, Lord Meruhin is as passionate about his many humanitarian causes as ever, lending his name to 400 charities. Page 39

King Proby: The exuberant new West End show, *Elvis — The Musical*, stars the evergreen P.J. Proby in the title role. Page 34

Madea event in Leeds: Opera North has revived Luigi Cherubini's great tragic opera, *Madea*, in a superb new staging with the British soprano Josephine Barston in splendid form. Page 35

Fred's finest: Three of Frederick Ashton's most intriguing ballets have been staged by the Royal Ballet, including the rarely seen *Les Illuminations*. Page 35

End of the affair: I do not say that divorce has lost its power to hurt; one would hate to sweep aside the possible sufferings of children. The question is, is the divorce of the Duke and Duchess of York a public concern? Should it be? asks Nigel Lawson. Page 17

Shock waves: Wildly patterned outfits suddenly look right, with clashes of colour that put the previous plain, plain, plain to shame. Page 17

Headline news: Lord Skidelsky and Jean Lambert were surprised at the BBC's political output made the *Daily Mail's* front page. Page 23

Cottage industry: Steve Overt, the Olympic gold medalist, and his wife are selling their Scottish stately home. They have restored it and created eight holiday cottages for rent. Page 41

It is by taking the arguments from the rising xenophobia that politicians are justifying measures which once again are making scapegoats out of all foreigners for the next general election. Page 41

Professor George Cushing, Hungarian expert; Lord Haden-Guest, UN official; Professor Jack Kitching, zoologist; Charlotte Bentley, campaigner for the rights of encephalitis. Page 21

Youth violence: attracting young people to the Church; sex tourism; BSE: library at risk. Page 19

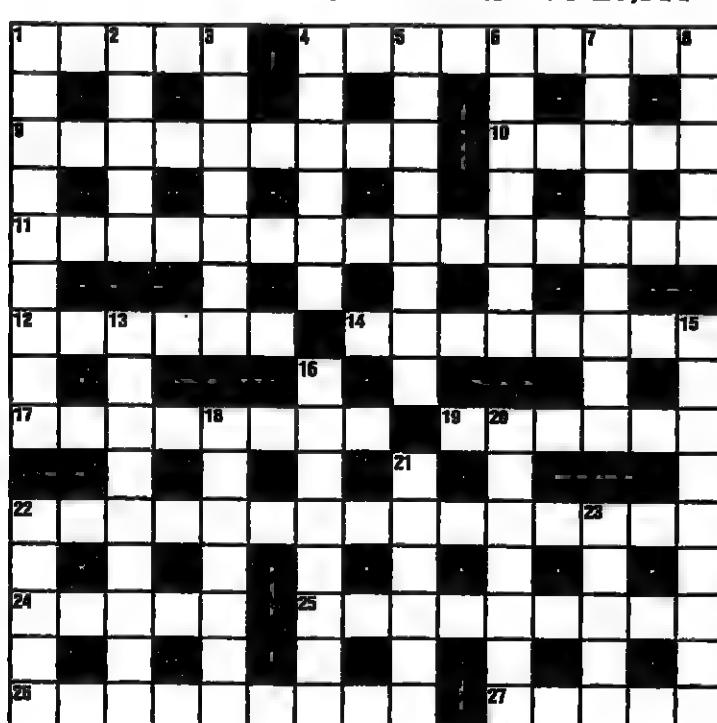
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

FILMS
How does Bruce Willis fare in Terry Gilliam's new *Twelve Monkeys*?

BOOKS
Malcolm Bradbury admires John Updike's new novel, *In the Beauty of the Lilies*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,144



- ACROSS
- 1 Cry of praise from monk about the Bible (5).
 - 2 Pub contact supplying a cheap rent (5,4).
 - 3 They deliver ammunition to soldiers (9).
 - 4 Quick fastener, extremely pricey (5).
 - 5 Investor who does not work out East, for example (8,7).
 - 6 How dentists' examinations are conducted? (6).
 - 7 Dismiss abruptly and get clean away (5,3).
 - 8 A greedy person tucked into plenty in the wood (8).
 - 9 Standard required in state cricket side (6).
 - 10 Give up dowry after delay — endless drama! (7,3,5).
 - 11 Each return catch gobbled up (5).
- DOWN
- 1 How actors do *A Month in the Country*, perhaps? (9).
 - 2 Delight in morning service (5).
 - 3 Like a complex dictionary I get familiar with (7).
 - 4 Beat into a thin sheet (6).
 - 5 Conservative in high church position is in plot (8).
 - 6 Poor beggar gets final letter in Laura's squiggling (7).
 - 7 Swiss instrument in plane defective — sound warning (9).
 - 8 A bed in Orpington, say (5).
 - 9 Not believing articles I tolerate mostly (9).
 - 10 Exotic facial tan showing excessive enthusiasm (9).
 - 11 Head in rising grammar school starts getting amorous (8).
 - 12 Gluing pieces on outside of old puppet (7).
 - 13 A line may be tied up (7).
 - 14 Depressed, or in some distress (6).
 - 15 Manage a wooded area soundly (5).
 - 16 Charles's head buried in the sand — the fool! (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,143

SNATCH ACROSTIC
HULL POPISTIC
NUA OOTIC
GASTRIC RECTORY
TANTRONIC
SCREWDRIVER
SOCIETY
CANTENELATION
EDITH TRASHING
GOVERNMENT
MINISTRY ARREST

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 63 per cent of the 30 competitors in the Edinburgh Regional Final of The Times Aberlour Crossword Championship and by 62 per cent of the pairs.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, call 0800 800 800 or visit the website www.bbc.co.uk/weather	For the latest AA roadwatch information, 24 hours a day, call 0300 30 30 30 or visit the website www.aa.co.uk
Greater London	701
East of England	702
West of England	703
South of England	704
North of England	705
Scotland	706
Wales	707
Central Scotland	708
North Scotland	709
South Scotland	710
West Scotland	711
East Scotland	712
Central England	713
North England	714
South England	715
West England	716
East England	717
Central Wales	718
North Wales	719
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East Scotland	727
Central England	728
North England	729
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East England	732
Central Wales	733
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South Wales	735
West Wales	736
East Wales	737
Central Scotland	738
North Scotland	739
South Scotland	740
West Scotland	741
East Scotland	742
Central England	743
North England	744
South England	745
West England	746
East England	747
Central Wales	748
North Wales	749
South Wales	750
West Wales	751
East Wales	752
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West Wales	991
East Wales	992
Central Scotland	993
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Central England	998
North England	999
South England	1000

HIGHEST & LOWEST

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Greater London	701
East of England	702
West of England	703
South of England	704
North of England	705
Scotland	706
Wales	707
Central Scotland	708
North Scotland	709
South Scotland	710
West Scotland	711
East Scotland	712
Central England	713
North England	714
South England	715
West England	716
East England	717
Central Wales	718
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ARTS 33-35
Josephine Barstow
in marvellous
voice as Medea



HOMES 41
Steve and Rachel
Overt are selling
their stately pile



SPORT 43-48
Simon Barnes on
why Manchester
finally saw red

**TELEVISION
AND
RADIO**
Pages 46,47

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY APRIL 17 1996

C&W delays filling top post while BT talks continue

By ERIC REGULY
MERGER negotiations between Cable and Wireless and British Telecom have reached the point that C&W has put the appointment of a new chief executive on hold.

It has also emerged that the top executives of the two companies met yesterday in an effort to speed up the negotiations, aimed at creating a £35 billion global telecoms player with a strong presence in Asia, America and Europe.

The merger talks have been much more extensive than previously believed. The heads of the companies' various departments, including finance, regulation and strategy, have been meeting regularly in an effort to determine how their activities should best come together.

Sir Peter Bonfield, the chief executive of BT, and Sir Iain Vallance, the chairman, met with Rod Olsen, the acting chief executive of C&W, and Brian Smith, the chairman, at BT's headquarters in London. Sir Peter and Mr Smith had been in contact with each other before the meeting.

Until yesterday, BT insisted that its senior executives had not been in contact with each other since the initial round of negotiations collapsed last month and that any talks that did occur were largely limited to the financial advisers. BT's main adviser is N M Rothschild; C&W's is Goldman Sachs.

C&W has been looking for a chief executive since last November, when the board asked James Ross and Lord Young of Graffham, who was chairman, to leave. Lord Young was replaced by Mr Smith.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET			
REUTERS			
FT-SE 100	3825.3	(+34.8)	
Yield	3.89%		
FT-SE All share	1902.18	(+17.87)	
Nikkei	21868.17	(-14.87)	
Dow Jones	8511.35	(+18.43)	
S&P Composite	644.89	(+2.40)	
US RATE			
Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)	
Long Bond	7.725%	(8 1/8%)	
Yield	6.80%	(6.79%)	
LONDON MONEY			
3-month interbank	8 1/8%	(8 1/8%)	
Libor long	10 1/8%	(10 1/8%)	
future (Jun)	10 1/8%	(10 1/8%)	
STERLING			
New York	1.5073*	(1.5070)	
London	1.5068	(1.5078)	
DM	2.2765	(2.2765)	
FF	1.2380*	(1.2383)	
SP	1.6550	(1.6550)	
Yen	163.12	(163.40)	
£ index	83.8	(83.8)	
DOLLAR			
London	1.8108*	(1.8135)	
DM	5.1250*	(5.1338)	
FF	1.2380*	(1.2383)	
SP	1.6550	(1.6550)	
Yen	108.29*	(108.59)	
£ index	88.8	(88.8)	
Tokyo close Yen	108.45		
NORTH SEA OIL			
Brent 15-day (Jul)	\$18.20	(N/A)	
GOLD			
London close	\$382.85	(\$382.85)	
* denotes midday trading price			

Tesco to create 4,000 more jobs with 24 new stores

By SARAH BAGNALL

TESCO, Britain's biggest supermarket group, is to create 4,000 new jobs by opening 24 new stores this year. The jobs are in addition to the 4,500 new jobs announced last month as part of the food retailer's drive to improve customer service.

The new store opening programme, which comprises eight superstores, 12 compact stores and four Metro stores, comes after the opening of 23 new stores last year.

The news came as the food retailer surprised the City with the announcement that it intended to pay a less generous dividend to shareholders in the future. The group said it had decided to rein in the growth in dividend payments because it was spending more than it had predicted two years ago. As a result, the food retailer wants to conserve cash.

Sir Ian MacLaurin, chairman, said: "In the light of the investment opportunities available, we believe it is appropriate in future years to pay progressive dividends, but at a rate of growth which is closer to that of earnings."

In January 1994, Tesco announced its intention to pay progressive dividends, well ahead of earnings because of tougher planning restrictions and depressed trading during the recession.

As a result, over the past three years, Tesco has increased the dividend by about 10.6 per cent a year, compared with the growth in earnings of 6.2 per cent.

However, last year the group spent £649 million, of which nearly £600 million was core UK expenditure and was higher than the group had pencilled in three years ago.

Tesco now expects to spend more than £700 million in the current year, of which nearly £100 million will be in Europe, up from £42 million last time.

The news came as Tesco revealed a 14.5 per cent jump in underlying pre-tax profits to £681 million in the year to February 24 and a further

increase in its share of the food retail market. Including a £6 million net loss on the sale of fixed assets and the £39 million cost of integrating Wm Low in the previous year's figures, pre-tax profits rose 22.5 per cent to £675 million.

Sales including value-added tax rose 19.8 per cent to top £13 billion, helped by a 19.8 per cent rise in UK sales to £12.4 billion. Like-for-like sales rose 8.9 per cent. The group managed to lift its market share from 12 per cent in December 1994 to 13.6 per cent in December 1995.

The current year has started well, with like-for-like sales growth of 7 per cent in the first five weeks of the year, far outstripping City expectations. The company said part of the growth reflected the continued success of Clubcard, its loyalty card which has more than eight million users. Analysts had expected a slowdown in like-for-like sales after

Tempus 28

Clubcard had passed the anniversary of its launch in mid-February.

Sir Ian said: "Clubcard continues to be a tremendous success. It has helped to attract new customers and has increased the spend of existing customers."

During the year, customers received 662 million of Clubcard vouchers. In its first year Clubcard performed better than expected by making a small profit contribution.

The food retailer reiterated that it expected the petrol price war to cost it £30 million in lost profit. However, the bulk of this was already factored in to City analysts' forecasts.

The final dividend was lifted from 5.9p to 6.55p, making a total for the year of 9.6p, compared with 8.6p last time. The dividend, due to be paid on July 1, is payable out of earnings of 21.9p a share, up 9 per cent. The shares fell 3p to 287p yesterday.



Sir Ian MacLaurin continues to bring in the customers with the store's Clubcard

National Power shares soar on talk of US bid

By MELVYN MARCUS and CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE share price of National Power, Britain's largest generating company, rose sharply yesterday as takeover rumours linked to Southern, the US utility combine, swept through the stock market.

In response to persistent demand, market-makers raised National Power's share price 31 1/2p to 52 1/2p. By the close of trading almost 13 million shares had changed hands.

Speculation had it that Southern, possibly in conjunction with an American consortium, had raised up to \$12 billion to mount a full scale bid for National Power, valuing the shares at more than 700p each and the whole company at around £8 billion.

National Power and the rival PowerGen are waiting on clearance from Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, for their respective bids for Southern Electricity of the UK and Midlands Electricity. Confirmation that the MMC has given a qualified go-ahead for the bids was leaked to *The Economist* last week.

Southern acquired South Western Electricity for some £1.1 billion during last year's round of consolidation within the electricity sector. Clearance of the power generators' £4.7 billion worth of bids for the Recs is widely expected to

signal further consolidation.

A bid for either of the generators cannot proceed without government approval because no investor is allowed to hold more than 15 per cent of National Power or PowerGen. Some analysts believe it would be political folly for the Government to sanction an offer for the generators, which dominate the wholesale market.

Activity in National Power shares helped the FT-SE index to rise 34.8 to a record close of 3,825.3.

Shares in South West Water also moved strongly on belief that Southern of the US is about to move on the company. Market speculation of a US move has been bolstered by comments from Bill Dahlberg, president of the Atlanta-based Southern, that the US group saw a quick opportunity to buy a water company outside the US. South West Water added 13p to close at 729p.

Meanwhile Unison, the broad-based union representing a large proportion of water workers, said that job losses could follow a US takeover of the southern water company, which already faces hostile bid approaches from Wessex Water and Severn Trent.

Pennington, page 27

Asda renews fight over drug prices

By SARAH BAGNALL

ASDA, the supermarket group, is to renew its assault on the UK's last remaining legal price-fixing agreement, the right of drug manufacturers to set prices on non-prescription medicines.

The market for over-the-counter medicines is worth £1.3 billion a year.

Asda, which played a key role in the demise of the net book agreement with heavy discounting, is taking its fight to destroy the 25-year price-fixing agreement for OTC products to the European Commission. It is to attempt to have the so-called resale price maintenance (RPM) agreement declared unlawful.

Nick Cooper, Asda's corporate counsel, said: "This is another unneeded piece of junk law which limits competition and protects the profit margins of the establishment."

Last year we destroyed the Net Book Agreement and as a result, ordinary working people are reading more books than ever. Now RPM

on medicines and vitamins must go."

Last October Asda defied the RPM agreement by cutting up to 20 per cent off the prices of a range of branded range of vitamins, minerals and dietary supplements. The company was forced swiftly to reinstate the prices when the manufacturers sought injunctions.

Asda is in the process of launching an expanded range of own-label medicines, which fall outside the ambit of the price-fixing agreement.

The Office of Fair Trading has yet to make public the findings of an inquiry into the pricing of OTC products, launched after Asda's move to cut prices.

City analysts argue that the abolition of RPM would reduce prices of medicines and reduce the profits of retailers such as Boots and manufacturers like SmithKline Beecham as well as force many small independent pharmacists out of business.

In the stock market Asda's shares rose 1 1/2p to 109 1/2p.

Gas service chief to retire early

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE MAN at the helm of British Gas's much-maligned service division is to leave the company.

David Wells, 55, is to take early retirement from the company he joined in 1969. Mr Wells, who has headed the service division since its formation three years ago, will leave in late summer after briefing his successor. He has no plans for other work, British Gas said.

The company said Mr Wells had indicated a wish to retire early several months ago and that he would leave British Gas having "successfully established service as a separate business".

His role came under intense scrutiny last winter when complaints about the company's loss-making service division soared.

Mr Wells will be replaced as managing director of service by Roger Wood who moves from MIRA Marconi Space UK, where he was managing director. Pennington, page 27

OFC directors accused by DTI

By ROBERT MILLER AND KAREN ZAGOR

DIRECTORS of the troubled Ostrich Farming Corporation (OFC) siphoned off investors' money through disadvantageous contracts with suppliers, the Department of Trade and Industry has alleged.

OFC, which has ceased trading following the presentation of a winding-up petition by the DTI, attracted millions of pounds from thousands of UK investors.

The money was used to buy ostriches that are currently at seven sites in Belgium under the care of Eddy Nachtergaele, an ostrich farmer.

In documents filed in the High Court, the DTI said that initially OFC had purchased ostriches direct from Mr Nachtergaele's Zooparc Amosafari company. More recently, OFC bought the birds from Wall Street LLC and Wallstreet Corporation (UK) Ltd, which in turn acquired the ostriches from Zooparc.

The DTI petition says: "The prices paid to the Wallstreet companies greatly exceed those charged by Zooparc." The DTI continues: "There

appears to be no good reason for involving the Wallstreet companies in the purchase of ostriches thus permitting Wallstreet to make an undeserved profit at the company's (OFC) expense to extract substantial profits from the company and at the company's expense, for no discernible benefit."

The DTI further alleges that OFC entered into uncommercial contracts with a number of "other companies" that were not in the interests of OFC as a company and that were intended to financially benefit the recorded directors of the "other companies". The petition adds: "Money is siphoned off from the company (OFC) by this method."

One of the two directors named is Brian Ketchell, who is the subject of an application by the DTI for disqualification as a company director in connection with his conduct as a director of Pull Force Ltd. OFC, the DTI says, "is partly under the control of a person who is alleged not to be fit to be a director of a company."

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PFI comes under fire over value for money

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government's showcase Private Finance Initiative (PFI), designed to switch responsibility for public infrastructure projects to the private sector, has been roundly criticised by a Conservative-controlled committee of backbench MPs.

While welcoming the thrust of the PFI, the committee said better evaluation and monitoring was needed to ensure that taxpayers were getting value for money. In their first report into the initiative, the cross-party committee of MPs also highlighted a series of concerns about delays and other difficulties arising from the initiative.

In particular, the MPs called upon the Treasury to "demonstrate with reference to particular examples and total figures, that higher financing costs have been more than offset by efficiency gains".

They questioned "whether it remains appropriate that private finance options must

always be explored", and called for "a clear statement of the future revenue commitments implicit in PFI projects".

The conclusions, drawn after a two-month inquiry, reveal that the Government has failed to demonstrate to the satisfaction of its own backbenchers that the PFI is delivering value for money.

Members of the committee were also concerned about the delays caused by the Government's insistence that every public spending project, however small, was first offered to the private sector.

"It would be unacceptable if the Government's planning for the future provision of roads or hospitals began to be driven by the shorter-term perspectives of private bidders," said the committee.

It added that the PFI, by reducing capital spending, should enhance control of overall public spending — but there was a danger that it might do the opposite.

Private companies committed to invest £4.8 billion in building and operating projects ranging from roads to prisons last year. The Government is aiming to achieve commitments totalling £14 billion by 1998-99.

Andrew Smith, the Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said the report confirmed Labour's concern that the PFI was being "mismanaged" by the Government. In particular, he said, the Government had failed to set strategic priorities to aid private bidders for projects, or streamline the bidding process so that projects could get off the ground more quickly.

Mr Smith also complained about a lack of accountability for public contributions to private finance initiatives, and the lack of guidelines to ensure that the projects offered to the private sector were appropriate.



Right: Richard Holland, chief executive of Boosey & Hawkes, the music publisher and instrument maker, said 1995 pre-tax profits rose £1.6 million to £5.1 million. The total dividend is 7p (5.9p), with a final 5.47p. City diary, page 29

CBI gives warning on job insecurity

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

JOB insecurity can undermine Britain's economic prosperity, Adair Turner, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, said last night.

His statement on the eve of publication of the latest unemployment figures today will be set out by Labour leaders as recognition of the importance they have been attaching to attacking rising job insecurity.

Addressing business leaders in Leeds, Mr Turner referred to the claim by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, that job insecurity was a "state of mind", saying that while insecurity might be a matter of perception, in business perceptions mattered.

He said: "Unless addressed, that feeling of insecurity can undermine the consumer confidence and public acceptance of the flexibility so vital to the UK's future prosperity."

Mr Turner, who drew accusations of being too close to Labour when he said recently that higher growth would and should lead to higher wages, added that education and training to ensure people's continuing employability would be vital for the return of the economic "feel-good" factor.

While Britain spent a higher proportion of output on education than Germany or Japan, it did not seem to be getting a better result for it. He questioned "whether some of our problems are not the product of mistaken educational policies pursued over many years".

Ministers hope that the latest unemployment figures will show a fall in the number out of work, and claiming benefits after last month's surprise 6,800 increase. But Labour will claim that the number of people forced into part-time or temporary work has risen by more than a third since the last general election.

Michael Meacher, Labour's employment spokesman, will claim that more than 1.4 million people are "under-employed", working part-time, or on temporary contracts because of a lack of full-time jobs.

Defiant Midlands besieged

By ANNE ASHWORTH

SPECULATORS continue to crowd the branches of Birmingham Midshires Building Society despite its decision to raise the minimum opening balances on its savings accounts.

At some branches, demand has even increased as investors clamour to become members, so qualifying for a bonus if the society abandons its much-vaunted attachment to mutuality. One financial ad-

viser requested 400 applications forms. Anyone aspiring to become a Birmingham Midshires member at 17 city centre branches now needs £1,500. At other branches, the minimum is £500.

Bid rumours have gained strength after the announcement that the Bristol & West is to be taken over by the Bank of Ireland. However, a spokesman said that the society was not, and never had been, in

merger or takeover talks. The minimum level had been changed to maintain standards of service.

□ The Chelsea Building Society has closed four accounts, having seen new accounts grow tenfold. It has withdrawn three share accounts which carry voting rights and so are entitled to participate in any merger bonus.

Pennington, page 27

At the crossroads? page 29

Second director to quit First Choice

FIRST CHOICE HOLIDAYS, the UK's third-largest tour operator, is to lose its second board member in six months. Peter Phillipson, managing director of the UK tour operating division, confirmed yesterday that he had given six months' notice. He is rumoured to have fallen out with Francis Baron, chief executive, over the commercial direction of the company. No replacement has yet been found, although the company says it is looking to appoint an outsider.

Mr Phillipson's decision to quit comes within months of the resignation of Malcolm Heald, First Choice's respected finance director, who is also believed to have left the company because of a personality clash. Mr Heald joined Hepworth and was replaced by David Gill, former finance director of Proudfoot.

Threat to bank jobs

UP TO 30,000 banking jobs could be lost if the Treasury approves plans to end the physical exchanging of cheques between banks, according to Bifu, the banking union. The plans propose that cheques no longer go physically through the clearing system. Instead, computers would deal with them electronically. Ed Sweeney, general secretary of Bifu, said: "Staff displaced should be switched to help customers at hard-pressed counters and to raise staffing levels elsewhere."

Construction orders fall

NEW construction orders fell for the second month running in February, according to the Department of the Environment. However, taking the three months to February together, orders were 9 per cent up on the previous three and 11 per cent up on the same period a year ago. Comparable figures for private housing were 5 per cent and 18 per cent up; public housing and housing associations, 6 per cent up but 10 per cent down; and in infrastructure, 6 per cent lower but 10 per cent up.

Peptide in Mochida link

PEPTIDE THERAPEUTICS, the biopharmaceuticals company that floated in November, said yesterday that there is a good chance it will strike a licensing agreement with Mochida Pharmaceutical of Japan by the end of the year. The agreement would allow Mochida to test and eventually sell Peptide products in exchange for royalty payments. Peptide reported an operating loss of £3.8 million in the year to December 31 after additional investment in research and development.

Gradus advances

GRADUS GROUP, manufacturer of flooring accessories and lighting systems, made pre-tax profits of £3.6 million last year, a rise of 15.8 per cent. The result was achieved despite a lack of improvement in trading conditions. Earnings were 13.48p a share, up 11.9 per cent. The company, which secured a stock market listing last year, is paying a final dividend of 3.6p a share for a maiden total of 4.6p. The shares were unchanged at 126p, against a placing price of 122p.

APH plans expansion

AUTOMOTIVE Precision Holdings, the manufacturer of high precision components for the automotive industry, proposes to expand manufacturing capacity at its site in Tonbridge, Kent, to cater for expected growth in demand. Yesterday the company reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £6.1 million 1995, compared with £5.6 million. Earnings were 10.1p a share, rising from 9.1p. The total dividend is increased to 5p a share from 3p, with a final 3.3p due on May 31.

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 - Nepal Discoverer
 - Around Dhaulagiri
 - Everest Base Camp
 - Unexplored, Annapurna
 - Langtang
 - Mustang
 - Everest Trekkers Route
 - Mera Peak Expedition

This week *The Times*, in association with Exodus Travels, launches an exciting competition: the chance to win an adventure holiday for two every year for life. There are 200 adrenalin-pumping holidays in 65 countries to choose from and every day we will feature details of one exhilarating type of adventure.

Today we look at trekking in the Himalayan Kingdom of Nepal, one of the most beautiful countries in the world. It contains an incredible variety of scenery, including huge glaciers, alpine pastures, dense, uninhabited forests and terraced hillsides.

Most of these treks are not for climbers, they are for serious walkers with a spirit of adventure. On the Everest Panorama holiday, above which is a grade B trek, you fly from London to Kathmandu and then on to Lukla, a strip. You stay in village inns and mountain lodges run by Sherpas renowned for their hospitality.

From Namche Bazaar, the main town



of the Khumbu valley and headquarters of Sagarmatha National Park, the trek goes to what is arguably the finest mountain viewpoint in the world: Thyangboche, the famous Buddhist monastery.

TREKKING PROFILE: 17 days, nine walking, altitude maximum 4,260m, five nights hotels, nine nights lodges.

DEPARTURES: Oct 2, 9, 16 and 30, Nov 20, Dec 11 and 18.

PRICE: £1,195-£1,275 plus insurance, £52. Ask for Dossier TNV.

Some treks are grade E, such as the Mera Peak Expedition, which goes to a maximum of 6,476m and for which you would need some previous ice-axe and crampon experience. Your reward would be reaching the summit of a Himalayan peak with views that encompass four of the five highest mountains on earth.

But there are trekking holidays, such as Nepal Discoverer, which is grade A and one which anyone who is reasonably fit would enjoy.

You fly to Kathmandu then drive to Pokhara via Gorakha. You can go rafting on the way to Chitwan National Park and a safari into the jungle.

TREKKING PROFILE: 17 days with four optional day walks, maximum altitude 2,000m.

DEPARTURES: Oct 9 and 23, Nov 20, Dec 18. Ask for dossier TNV.

PRICE: £1,195-£1,260 plus insurance £52. *Send for a grading guide to help you decide which type of trek you are physically capable of from: Exodus Travels, 9 Weir Rd, London SW12 0LT.

HOW TO ENTER OUR PRIZE DRAW

For your chance to win an adventure holiday for two, collect 15 of the 18 adventure tokens which will appear every day in *The Times* until May 4. Send them with the completed entry form to: *The Times*/Exodus Adventure Holidays Prize Draw, 16, Whitefriars St, London, EC8 2NG. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, May 15, 1996.

Up to £250 discount

Readers of *The Times* can take advantage of substantial savings on the cost of all Exodus Travels adventure holidays by collecting our discount vouchers.

We will publish 18 altogether and this week's vouchers add up to £75. Next week we will print another £75 worth and in week three £100 worth of

vouchers — giving you a possible saving on your holiday of £250.

You can claim from £150 to £250 off the cost of any of the Himalayan trekking holidays mentioned above with your *Times* vouchers on holidays booked before Dec 31, 1996. Full terms and conditions were published in Monday's paper.

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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICES

The Insolvency Act 1986
High Court of Justice
No 00695 of 1996
MEM HEALTH COLLECTY LIMITED
(In Administration)

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of creditors in the above matter is to be held at the High Court, London, at 11.00 am on the 23rd day of May 1996 at 11.00 am to consider the proposal to appoint a receiver and to consider establishing a creditors' committee. Members requesting a copy of the statement of proposals should do so in writing to the Administrator, Operation Centre, London Road, London, EC8 2NG, on or before the 17th day of May 1996 at 12.00 noon on the last day before the day fixed for the meeting, details in writing of your claim. P.E. TUCK, Joint Administrator.

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The Insolvency Act 1986
High Court of Justice
No 00695 of 1996
COAL INVESTMENTS LIMITED
(In Administration)

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The Insolvency Act 1986
High Court of Justice
No 00695 of 1996
MARCHAND TRADING LIMITED
(In Administration)

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The Insolvency Act 1986
High Court of Justice
No 00695 of 1996
AMHERST BRYCE COLLECTY LIMITED
(In Administration)

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AMP SOCIETY

NOTICE OF MEETING

Australian Mutual Provident Society
(Incorporated in the United Kingdom)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the United Kingdom members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) will be held at the Merchant Taylors' Hall, 30 Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8AY at 11.00 am on Monday, 20 May 1996.

1) To discuss the report on AMP's United Kingdom operations for the year ended 31 December 1995.

2) To discuss the report on AMP's United Kingdom operations for the year ended 31 December 1995.

3) To elect or re-elect members of the AMP Board of Directors for the year ending 31 December 1996.

4) To elect or re-elect members of the AMP Board of Directors for the year ending 31 December 1996.

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The Insolvency Act 1986
High Court of Justice
No 00695 of 1996
UK CONSOLIDATED MINING LIMITED
(In Liquidation)

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The Rack a

Cobham o

☐ DTI's plans for disorderly meetings ☐ Cost of British Gas service disaster ☐ South West bidders deserve equal measures

□ THE Birmingham Midshires has tried to kill rumours that investors could be heading for windfall but still they queue around the block to open new accounts. Nobody believes anything building societies say any more. The solution adopted borders on the surreal. The size of deposit has been raised – fair enough. But in 17 branches identified as most attractive to carpet-baggers it has been jacked up even higher. Will anyone with the £500 now needed balk at the bus fare to the cheaper branch?

This half, which deals direct with the public and will probably retain the British Gas name, is dubbed DuffCo by outsiders, and British Gas chairman Richard Giordano says he would be keen to ease his Aunt Maud out of it. It will therefore be given away free with the profitable part on demerger. If those con-

Mr Carter said after the annual meeting yesterday that first-quarter figures, due on May 15, would show an increase in profits from investments.

The group is paying a 6.6p final dividend, increasing the total 16 per cent to 9.65p.

Other subjects to appearance, Whose? Limited, Reg. no. English, Reg. No. 67295.
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THE TIMES



CITY DIARY

True blues line up for Kalms

JOHN REDWOOD and John Patten were among the early visitors at the third Dixons Insight '96 exhibition at Canary Wharf yesterday. Prestigious invites for the private exhibition were issued by Sir Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixons, and staunch Tory supporter. Redwood, who is rumoured to be making his way back into the Cabinet, was paying particular attention to the latest in digital cameras. No Labour luminaries were in evidence, but Dixons assures me that cross-party invitations were sent out. "We're only half way through the first of three days. There is still plenty of time."



Kalms invitations

Bishko's beef

AFTER Sainsbury's and Asda cut the price of beef in the aftermath of the BSE scare, troubled executives at T. Saks were set to discount their ubiquitous cow design by as much as 40%. "Mad," says chairman Roy Bishko, "but sales in the tie have actually increased over the last couple of months." Apparently, it's popular with Dutch farmers and the chairman of McDonald's in Japan.

Out of tune

BEHIND the record annual results at Boosey & Hawkes, the international music publisher and instrument maker, is a somewhat tuneless chief executive. Richard Holland, who made his way up through the company from group finance director in less than 18 months, hasn't been near his cello since he was 13.

Tit for tat

THE pigtail-pulling behind the launch of *Sunday Business*, which makes its debut this week, brings memories of the playground flooding back. The latest wheeze comes from VNU Business Publications, which has sent a solicitor's letter to Tom Rubythorn, proprietor of *Sunday Business* and former "autocrat" of *BusinessAge*. Peter Kirwan, Rubythorn's successor at the business magazine, who says he's worked hard to lose the magazine's racy image since he took over as editor, is furious with Rubythorn for using *BusinessAge* editorial to fill the *Sunday Business* dummy.

Eagle eyed

RON URQUHART, the American managing director of People's Bank in the UK, which starts selling its credit card in this country next week, spent six hours yesterday tussling with Sidney the Bald Eagle — all in the name of publicity. "Being a City person, it was terrifying," gasps Urquhart. "I was balancing it on one arm and fixing my hair with the other, then its wings would open and just mess it all up again."

THE London side of the International Bar Association is hosting a Borderless Crimes and Criminal Organisations conference next month, in Dublin, while the International Conference Group's money laundering seminar is being held this month in Lisbon.

MORAG PRESTON

Trend or turning point: are job figures at the crossroads?

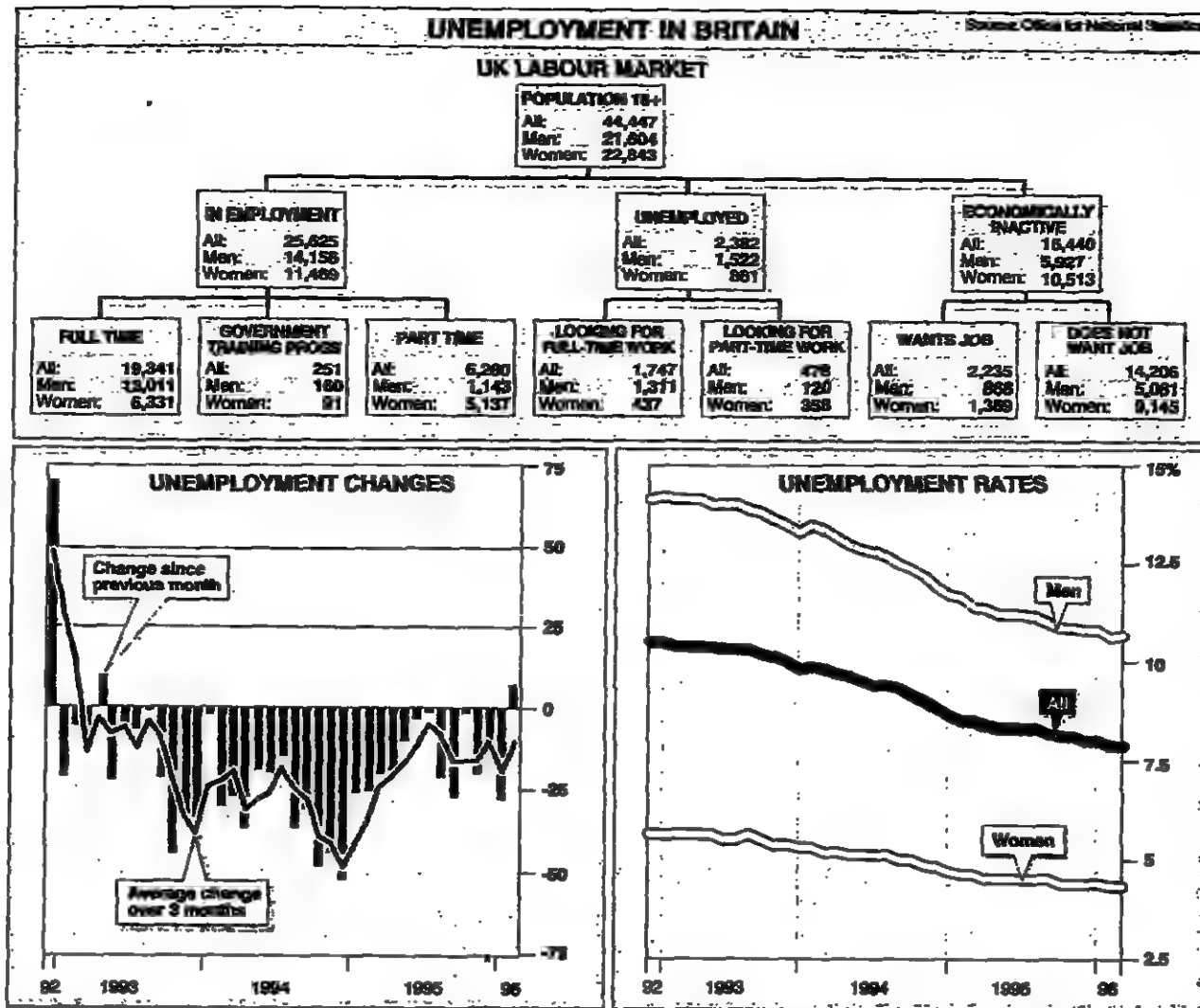
Philip Bassett on the trend and pattern of the number of people without work

Ministers are approaching today's unemployment figures with caution. Last month's 6,800 increase was both unexpected and unlikely to be significantly altered — and ministers are concerned that it is not followed by a further rise. While the link between unemployment, the absence of the economic "feel-good" factor and the Government's electoral fortunes is complicated, ministers are aware of how potent a political weapon not just joblessness but widespread job insecurity will be. The last thing the Government needs on unemployment is last month's surprise rise becoming a trend as the general election moves closer.

So, what is happening to unemployment now? Behind the headline figures, what is the trend and pattern of the number of people without work? □ Trend: Whitehall officials claim that in spite of last month's rise, the overall trend is still downward, falling by something like an average of 10,000 a month now, although the Central Statistical Office's seasonal adjustment programme is currently giving a trend figure of a fall of about 12,500 per month.

But they accept this rate has now been declining if not steadily, then at least for some time. Take not just individual month-by-month figures, but the average changes in claimant unemployment over three and six months. These give an idea of the trend and direction of unemployment. The graphic shows the recent and clearly sporadic monthly figures set against a moving three-month average, which statisticians agree shows a clear decline in the rate at which unemployment is falling.

A year ago, when claimant unemployment fell by 25,400, the average three-month change was a monthly fall of 34,500. The six-month change averaged 37,700. Now, the three-month change is down to 10,400, and the six-month to 13,100. Inevitably, month-by-month scrutiny of economic data such as the unemployment figures tends to focus on their change, with much read into the amount by which unemployment has risen or fallen. But the monthly changes are, of course, tiny against unemploy-



ment as a whole. Last month's rise, for instance, was a 0.3 per cent change from January's unemployment level. Even the biggest monthly drop — 51,800, in December 1994 — since unemployment started to fall in December 1992 was only a 2.1 per cent change on the previous month's level.

□ Labour market: However economically, politically and personally damaging its effects, unemployment is only one element in the market. Our graphic sets out the structure of the UK market, showing those in work, those unemployed, and the economically inactive — principally, retired people and those looking after a home.

Just as unemployment is constantly changing, so too is the overall labour market dynamic. Using figures drawn from the Government's quarterly Labour Force Survey, between autumn 1992, roughly when unemployment started to fall, and autumn 1995, the most recent full LFS data available, three main things have happened.

First, employment has grown — up by 504,000 over the period, or about 2 per cent, split roughly evenly between men and women. Secondly,

unemployment has fallen — down by 462,000, or more than 16 per cent. Thirdly, the number counted as economically inactive is up — by 215,000, or 1.3 per cent, with a large-scale net increase among men of 310,000.

Over the past year, for instance, the number of men deemed to be economically inactive has risen by 102,000 — almost exactly the same as the rise in male jobs. Over the same period, the number of economically inactive women has fallen by 105,000. Some independent analysts and politicians argue that the increase in economic inactivity is at least in part a disguised form of growing unemployment.

□ Rate: According to the latest figures, claimant unemployment is now at a rate of 7.9 per cent, measured as a proportion of the overall workforce. Since unemployment started to fall in December 1992, when the unemployment rate was 10.5 per cent, the proportion of people in Britain without work has declined 2.6 percentage points, or about a quarter. The downward progress of unemployment has been slow, but steady, as the graphic shows.

□ Gender: The unemployment rate is markedly different for men and women in Britain, with men, in general, still harder hit. Within the overall rate, more than one in ten men in Britain are without work — 10.7 per cent, or almost 1.7 million men. For women, the rate is a good deal less than half that — 4.3 per cent, or 525,400 women.

Since unemployment started to fall, male unemployment is down 600,600, or 26.3 per cent — 120,700 of it, or 6.7 per cent, in the last year alone. For women, unemployment is down 164,300, or 23.8 per cent — 32,400 of it, or 5.8 per cent, over the last year. The total fall for men and women combined is 764,900, or 25.7 per cent — 153,100 of it, or 6.5 per cent, in the last year.

□ Age: Just as unemployment varies by gender, so too does it vary by age, with young people being hit disproportionately hard. Take a broad definition of young people, up to the age of 25, which clearly includes many people starting families as well as teenagers leaving school and looking for work or training. Among this group, the unem-

ployment rate as measured by the LFS is now 16.2 per cent — 13 per cent among young women, and as high as 18.7 per cent among young men of this age band — close to a fifth.

People under the age of 25 make up a huge 30 per cent of all unemployment under the standard LFS definition of joblessness. They comprise about half of that proportion of the total number of people in employment. Unemployed young women make up almost a third of the total of this age band, probably reflecting for many how protean is the line between unemployment and economic inactivity — three-fifths of which is made up of women.

□ Duration: By contrast, men make up by far the largest share of the long-term unemployed — 75 per cent, according to LFS figures on the number of people out of work for a year or more (though for many people with experience of it, long-term unemployment is certainly seen as starting as being without work for six months or more, rather than a year). Currently, there are just under one million people who have been without work for a year or more — 952,000, down

from 1.1 million a year ago. Although any change in long-term unemployment was slow to begin once overall unemployment had started to fall, it is now coming down noticeably — down by 154,000, or just under 14 per cent, over the past 12 months.

Long-term unemployment among women is falling faster — down 17.6 per cent over the period. For men, women and the two taken together, long-term unemployment has been falling proportionately much quicker than even the unexpectedly early drop in unemployment overall — although some City analysts are expecting a shift in that in today's figures.

□ Region: People in different parts of Britain are affected differently by unemployment, and by its fall. In terms of the actual numbers out of work, and excluding the special case of Northern Ireland, unemployment is highest in the South East, at 683,500, followed by the North West at 242,500, and Yorkshire and Humberside at 200,200. By this measure, unemployment is lowest in East Anglia, at 62,800, followed by the South West at 156,100, and the East Midlands at 141,700.

But such unemployment levels are obviously substantially determined by structural factors such as population size and the local industrial composition.

Looked at as a proportion of the workforce, a different pattern of unemployment then emerges, with the North as the region with the highest unemployment rate, at 10.1 per cent — with women half that, and men half as much again as the overall figure — followed by Yorkshire and Humberside at 8.5 per cent and the North West at 8.3.

East Anglia still ranks well, at 6.1 per cent, followed by the South West at 6.8, and the East Midlands at 7.3.

The fall in unemployment has not been even. At 10.5 per cent, the decline in claimant unemployment over the past year has been fastest in the South East, followed by the West Midlands and the South West with falls of 8 per cent. Unemployment has fallen most slowly — though still by almost 2 per cent — in Wales, followed by Yorkshire and Humberside with a 4.7 per cent drop, and the North, with a 5.2 fall.

In overall terms, then, what does all this show? At 2.2 million, according to official figures, unemployment is still high. It is clearly falling, and has been on a downward trend now for three years. But the downward trend is slowing, with few people now prepared to even guess where it might be heading.

That may indicate, as it often has in the past, a turning point — the point at which a trend is reversed, and starts to move in the opposite direction. Although they will not say so yet, Whitehall officials are certainly giving thought now about whether it is such a turning point — and are certainly not rejecting out of hand the idea that it might be.

That is clearly uncomfortable for government ministers, looking hard for signs of the economic recovery bearing some form of electoral fruit — although it may be better news for government-hungry new Labour, eager to attack the Government's economic record in ways that connect with people, as perhaps foremost among economic issues, unemployment does.

And all that is likely to mean that unemployment will continue to be a key economic, business and political issue for the foreseeable future.

JON ASHWORTH

Bill should protect employees who blow the whistle on fraud

The finer points of the so-called "Whistleblowers Bill", designed to protect employees who point the finger at colleagues suspected of committing fraud, will be debated by MPs today. Legislation could follow early next year, and the potential ramifications are enormous. White-collar crime is draining the resources of UK industry, but most employees are too frightened to do anything about it. Employers would sooner pretend it does not exist.

Don Touhig, the Labour MP who introduced the Public Interest Disclosure Bill, says people within organisations often realise that something is wrong at an early stage, but are afraid to speak out. The main fear is that they will lose their jobs, or be victimised. Mr Touhig said: "Employers are entitled to loyalty and confidentiality in normal circumstances. But where there is serious malpractice, it is vital that people know that the law will protect them if they act responsibly."

Accountants experienced in combating fraud have mixed feelings about the Bill. Simon Bevan, head of Arthur Andersen's fraud services unit, thinks it well-intentioned, but doubts whether legislation will bring about the desired effect. He thinks companies would be better off publishing a clear policy statement that would encourage employees to come forward without fear of reprisal. It should set out various methods of informing management of suspected fraud and seek to remove the stigma attached to "snapping" one's colleagues.

Mr Bevan said: "The more actions a company takes to create a culture in which dishonesty will not be toler-



Don Touhig, Labour MP who introduced the Bill

ed, the less chance fraudsters will have. As any journalist and policeman knows, the best tip-offs usually arrive anonymously. By encouraging the whistle to be blown on fraudsters, they may well uncover frauds that would otherwise have never been discovered."

Companies leading the way on such initiatives include Esso, the oil company, which provides a booklet on standards of business conduct for

its 3,000 workers. It holds open forums for employees, and runs a confidential 24-hour telephone helpline for employees seeking to raise sensitive issues.

An alternative is Public Concern at Work, a charity based in London that runs a helpline on 071-404 6609 offering free confidential legal advice. Key corporate supporters include Cadbury Schweppes, TSB Group and NatWest Bank. One multi-

national company recently discovered that it was losing £12 million a year to an alleged fraud, after up a call to Public Concern at Work.

The company had intended to divert a planned £40 million investment to Germany, because it could not trace the source of its losses. As a result of the tip-off, the investment will now go ahead in Britain. John Jackson, of Stavro Gunn, the commercial investigator based in Manchester, worked on the case. He said: "The employee realised the goods must have been stolen, but was terrified of contacting his own managers. He knew they must have been involved."

Mr Jackson said access to Public Concern at Work was a breakthrough in the fight against internal fraud. Many tip-offs are made by disgruntled employees and turn out to be valueless. Public Concern vets calls before contacting management. Mr Jackson said: "On receiving a call from a reputable source with very precise details, you do take notice of it."

Poor internal controls are often cited as the most common trigger for fraud, according to an international fraud report by KPMG. Collusion between employees and third parties is the second most common element. The third relates to the type of industry: insurance, financial services and the retail sector are particularly prone to fraud.

Typical "red flags" to look for, says KPMG, include a lifestyle beyond an employee's financial means, missing files and unexplained variances in financial information. Among European respondents, only 34 per cent of frauds were picked up by internal controls. Tip-offs by employees applied

in 32 per cent of the cases, and 25 per cent were discovered by accident.

The whistleblowing proposals are intended to reassure employees that they will not damage their careers by revealing suspicions, provided they raised matters internally at first. They will not be protected if found to be acting in bad faith or if they have sold their story to a newspaper. Those who follow the rules will be able to obtain injunctions and seek compensation for loss of earnings and damage to reputation. Even so, many might still find it easier to make an anonymous call.

JON ASHWORTH

A philosophy that reflects concern for the future

Canon's philosophy is a corporate philosophy that reflects a concern for the future. We believe this kind of philosophy is essential for a company to survive into the 21st century. In today's world, there are several challenges that are obstacles to growth. One is the trade imbalance between certain industrialized countries. The second is the huge gap in income between rich and poor nations. The third is the environmental crisis, and the fourth is the aging population. We believe it is a company's responsibility to address these challenges. Canon has adopted a philosophy that reflects concern for the future. We believe this kind of philosophy is essential for a company to survive into the 21st century. In today's world, there are several challenges that are obstacles to growth. One is the trade imbalance between certain industrialized countries. The second is the huge gap in income between rich and poor nations. 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Shares reach record high

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	996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DirecTV plans to launch satellite service in Europe

By ERIC REGULY

DIRECTV, the satellite television service ultimately owned by General Motors, plans to launch a digital satellite operation in competition with BSkyB and other media companies in Europe.

DirecTV is looking for European partners and has been trying to find a chief executive to run the European division. Several potential candidates in Britain, including cable company executives, have been interviewed.

Celso Azevedo, the senior vice-president of DirecTV International, the newly formed overseas division of DirecTV, said: "Europe is very important to us. We have been in contact with some potential partners in several countries."

He would not identify the partnership candidates, but said an announcement about the formation of the European service probably would be made within a few months.

DirecTV, based in Los An-

geles, is the fastest-growing digital TV company in the world. BSkyB, 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, uses analogue technology but plans to launch a digital service in a year or so.

DirecTV was launched by Hughes Electronics, the satellite communications and aerospace subsidiary of General Motors, and has about 1.4 million US subscribers. It expects to have three million by the end of the year, with forecasts of ten million by 2000.

AT&T, America's largest long-distance phone company, bought a 25 per cent stake in January for \$137.5 million, valuing the company at \$55 billion. AT&T has an option to increase its stake to 30 per cent over 5 years, depending on its ability to recruit DirecTV customers.

Subscribers are attracted to the service mainly because of choice. DirecTV offers about

175 digital video and audio channels and, like BSkyB, offers movies, sport, children's shows and pay-per-view.

DirecTV has said it wants to become the "Coca-Cola of digital TV" around the world. With three local partners, it recently launched a South American service called Galaxy Latin America that will compete against a consortium that includes The News Corporation and Telecommunications Inc, the world's largest cable company. It also has formed a partnership in Japan which is scheduled to begin broadcasting in mid-1997.

Mr Azevedo said that DirecTV's ideal European partners would provide programming and marketing expertise. The company, he said, will try to lease space on the Astra or Eutelsat satellites. Failing that, it might lease a satellite from Hughes, its owner.



Alan Jerome plans to build a multi-based business so that the textile firm can ride out future storms

Jerome dresses tartan army

By FRASER NELSON

CREASE-FREE trousers and Braveheart tartan waistcoats are among the designs that have sustained the return to profitability at S Jerome & Sons, the textile group that yesterday reported a 31 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £951,000 in 1995. The West Yorkshire company

has capitalised on overseas demand for tartan, increasing exports by 30 per cent to account for 27 per cent of its turnover.

Jerome's growth is stabilising from last year's profits recovery of 75 per cent. It has doubled the capacity of its weaving machines in Shipley and bought West Yorkshire Weavers, which contributed £100,000 in the first six months. Alan

Jerome, the chairman, said the group was aiming for security, not market dominance. "In the textile business, sales are cyclical - you can't rely on the popularity of any one product. Our strategy is to build a multi-based business so in future, we can ride the storms."

Earnings were up 1.2p to 7.7p. The dividend rises to 2.25p (1.5p), with a final 1.5p.

Sidlaw to close factory

Sidlaw Group, the oil services and packaging company, is to close a factory at Washington, Tyne and Wear, with the loss of about 90 jobs. The factory, which supplies packaging for the food sector, incurred losses of more than £1 million in the six months to March 31. Closure costs were estimated at £2.2 million.

EBRD pact

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development yesterday ended its two-day annual meeting in Sofia which was highlighted by agreement to double its capital. Jacques de Larosière, president, said the increase was "crucial".

Car sales up

Car sales in western Europe rose by 3.1 per cent in March, compared with March 1995, according to provisional figures from the European association of manufacturers. Car sales totalled 1.275 million last month, compared with 1.238 a year earlier.

Whisky cheer

Exports of Scotch whisky rose 4 per cent to £2.276 billion in 1995 from £2.191 billion in the previous year. European Union exports, which account for almost 40 per cent of total exports, rose 2 per cent to £872 million.

BAe deal opens up Asia Pacific

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

BRITISH Aerospace yesterday became one of Australia's largest defence companies with the acquisition of AWA Defence Industries for A\$54 million (£28 million).

The purchase, which brings BAe a range of defence products including military vehicles, infra-red radar and the Nulka hovering rocket, forms a key plank in the company's strategy to expand in the Asia Pacific region.

AWA Defence Industries is expected to achieve sales of A\$150 million in 1996 and has about A\$300 million of orders.

After the acquisition, BAe Australia will have annual turnover of A\$260 million and employ 2,000. The deal is expected to pave the way for the company to develop a big export business into Asia.

Dick Evans, BAe's chief executive, said yesterday: "The acquisition is a major strategic progression for British Aerospace Australia in line with its objective to increase significantly its commitment to growth in Australia."

Robin Southwell, chief executive of BAe Australia, said: "It allows us to show our customers and the Australian government that we are investing in and committed to the growth of our business in Australia."

THE TIMES

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Guardian
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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 17 1996



Yehudi Menuhin

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Joanna Pitman


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■ MUSIC

Violinist turned humanitarian: Lord Menuhin reflects on his new tasks as he approaches 80



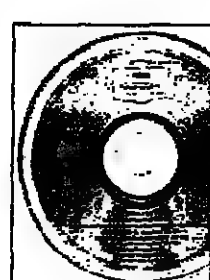
■ YOUNG ARTS

Children in Southwark prepare the way for the reconstructed Globe with weeks of Elizabethan fun

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ TOMORROW

Reviews of all the new films, including Bruce Willis in Terry Gilliam's *Twelve Monkeys*



■ TOMORROW

Our unrivalled guide to the best new videos and classical recordings moves to Thursday

Yehudi Menuhin will be 80 next Monday. Here he talks about his work; and we report on a new documentary portrait

Plenty of time to change the world

Joanna Pitman finds Menuhin's humanitarian passions undimmed

It is fascinating and impressive, but most of all heartening, to see Lord Menuhin turning 80 in a spirit of expectation that several decades of activity are yet to come. It is the result of an irrepressible mind that is still darting around, fizzing with ideas, schemes and causes which he earnestly believes will make the world a better place. The fact that his mother, just turned 100, is alive and kicking in San Francisco, and still proudly monitoring her son's prodigious achievements, may explain the impression that Menuhin is becoming ever more youthful.

Music remains his core passion, but he has long ago taken his music beyond its traditional parameters in his quest to create a more positive, inspired and courageous world. "I have numerous other projects on the go, schemes to arrange, fundamental changes to be made to society. We live in a crime-producing civilisation. If there are terrorists, it is because we have produced them. If there are drug-crazed children, it is because we have not given them inspiration. So many things can be improved with simple but carefully judged effort. I have a lot to do but I think I am achieving something already."

Even at 80, his face and body are as light, supple and mobile as his mind. As he speaks, the gentle bird-like profile turns and dips, his quick avian eyes darting about in search of new challenges, new solutions.

His achievements so far are impressive indeed. Live Music Now, one of his earliest projects, was founded 22 years

ago to give talented young musicians performing experience before people who would not normally have access to live music: children with special needs, adults with learning difficulties, elderly people, prison inmates.

"LMN organises almost 2,000 concerts a year," he says. "It is gratifying to see that joy can be awakened even for the most withdrawn or depressed among us. The inspiration for the project came from my travels in Germany immediately after the war when I played for audiences in newly liberated camps. In many cases, the music was their first contact with civilisation. I was seeing these people's strengths and weaknesses and for the first time I saw what music could do for them. It was an experience which changed and inspired me."

MUS-E is another project designed to inspire the underprivileged. Founded in 1994, this one focuses on introducing teaching based on music and dancing to primary schools across Europe in order to channel the energies of children with violent or unhappy home environments. "My thesis is that the only antidote to crime is to introduce an atmosphere of hope, health, trust and joy with music. This can be done very simply by performing dancing and singing every day in violent schools. In a short time it is amazing how the hate is transformed."

Not satisfied with LMN and MUS-E (and of course the International Menuhin Academy, the Yehudi Menuhin School, and the International Yehudi Menuhin Foundation), the indefatigable Menu-



"Even at 80, Menuhin's face and body are as light, supple and mobile as his mind"

hin last year dreamt up the Mozart Fund. This seeks to change international copyright law so that royalties are paid on works now in the public domain. The revenue would be used for charity projects for the prevention of human, environmental and cultural disasters. "My vision is that the Mozart Fund would include support for the struggle to prevent torture, action to save the Alpine environment, the work of the Red Cross, the fight against leprosy, all sorts of needs."

Talking to Menuhin and encountering his sometimes extraordinary schemes for the betterment of our world, one becomes steadily more aware that the astonishingly autodidactic approach of the man is the result of the erratic self-education of the boy. By 1927, when Menuhin had turned ten, he had spent less than a day at school.

Orthodox schooling was impossible as he was spending most of his life on the road performing in the world's concert halls. His father had given up his job to accompany him and the young Menuhin was earning a living in his place to support the family.

"I have had no academic training at all. Only my own reading, philosophy, thought, and a certain breadth of experience. In a way, my lack of formal education means that I can distance myself from details and take a broader view of problems that face us."

The result is a staggering array of ideas. A "Parliament of Cultures" is one of his latest projects. "This will be a pipeline into Brussels — neither bureaucratic nor political — which will give a voice to each national and regional culture, including nomadic peoples. It will give them a forum in which they can

express their grievances on any issue."

Menuhin has a solution to the Irish problem, involving the meeting of widows from both sides. He has a scheme for a transnational system to provide credits in welfare, health, education and culture for everybody. He supports alternative medicine (the one issue that tempted this life peer to attend a House of Lords debate), he practises yoga (he once stood on his head for the Queen, and did it again after a Berlin Philharmonic centenary concert), he has ideas for combating BSE, he still travels for eight months each year and he lends his name to 400 charities.

Oh, and he has recently been working on a blueprint for changing party political democracies into less combative, more constructive, forces for good. What a place the world would be if we all had centenarian mothers.

Unique glimpse of a prodigy

A new Menuhin film uses rare archive material, as Michael Binyon reports

Lord Menuhin is a familiar public figure: sage, humanist, philanthropist, conductor, and music's foremost ambassador. But it is for his achievements as a violinist — one of the greatest this century has seen — that Menuhin is still feted. Although he has left a rich legacy of recordings, he no longer performs. The inspired playing that saw him hailed as a child prodigy 70 years ago is now a fading memory.

But Bruno Monsiegeon, a friend, fellow musician and film-maker, was determined to reinforce memory with evidence. Luckily there is plenty around. Primitive cine-cameras were already recording the sensation of the chubby Jewish boy from San Francisco when he took the concert halls of America by storm. Footage of his performance with the great conductors and orchestras of the Twenties and Thirties, of interviews with the soft-spoken boy, of public adulation and newspaper hype, have lain for years in archives.

Years of research have now paid off. Yehudi Menuhin, *The Violin of the Century*, a two-hour film that won acclaim when shown on French television, received its British premiere at the Institut Français last year, and extracts were shown last month to the Queen and guests invited to celebrate Menuhin at Buckingham Palace.

Its triumph lies not only in the fascination of seeing the jerky images of this century's great men — Elgar, Toscanini, Enescu, Busch, Furtwängler — bewitched by the youth who so effortlessly interpreted their vision. It lies also in the poignant juxtaposition of Menuhin, today's elder statesman, and the young Yehudi.

Menuhin himself guides us through an extraordinary, nomadic life that, as he admits, has never known hardship, suffered professional setback or been touched by the cau-



The boy virtuoso on his way to Europe in 1926. This picture is from Menuhin's autobiography *Unfinished Journey*, now published by Methuen in revised form

clism that befell so many fellow Jews. Monsiegeon's technique avoids the dangers of both obituary or hagiography: Menuhin is still very much there, commenting detachedly on his own performances: "I like my left hand there — it's really jolly good!"

As a raconteur, he reflects all the shading of his playing: sometimes light, almost impish as he boasts of how much he was paid or imitates the Dorian Gray obsession of Karajan. At other times he is sombre, especially when he talks about his sister Hephizbah; his failure, as he sees it, to offer support when she was suffering; and the raging emotions that lay beneath what her brother called the reliable machine that never went wrong.

Sometimes he verges on the mawkish; elsewhere he is reflective in examining suffer-

ings of the enslaved in displaced people's camps, of soldiers, lonely and wounded in hospital, of the victims of totalitarian states, of his own when his first marriage collapsed.

The life, however, is almost incidental. What the film brings out is the playing that shaped each chapter in this memoir: the infinitely varied vibrato, the elegant ease, the originality of phrasing and the sometimes savage accents. It is the music that soars out of these archives — great long stretches of it, some dating back to 1943, enough to make us understand why Menuhin, his talent almost suffocated by subsequent fame, so captured the hearts and souls of earlier generations.

© Yehudi Menuhin: *The Violin of the Century*, from *La Sept/Arte* television and EMI Classics, is distributed by Ideal Audience

Where there's Will

Hard by the Thames, schoolchildren are discovering Shakespeare their own way. Hilary Finch reports

The Globe Theatre, originally built in 1599 and destroyed by fire in 1613, is fast approaching its official reopening. The thatch is complete, the seating in place, and Shakespeare's great "Wooden O" is expanding to its full circumference. On Saturday, three days before Shakespeare's official birthday, the London borough of Southwark will celebrate with a "sonnet walk", a masque outside the Globe at 2pm, and a cathedral service at 6pm.

Meanwhile, 19 Southwark schools have been recreating that environment in six weeks of Elizabethan Fairs, held in collaboration with members of the Globe Education Centre. In the school hall of Robert



Browning Primary in Walworth, a trumpeter heralds the nummers' play. A 10-year-old St George faces an 11-year-old black-cloaked Murderer. A quack doctor revives the saint and everyone cavorts in a round dance to a tape of Greensleeves.

Now the dance becomes

more sophisticated. A very tall, very thin bearded jester leads a troupe of children in an *Estampie*, a *Bransle* and a *Selling's Round*. The jester is Adrian Lucas, assistant school-keeper, who also happens to be a member of the Paladins of Chivalry, a re-enactment society which specialises in medieval tournaments. He's taught the children all the right steps, and they foot it feathily.

Meanwhile, a group of real thespians lurks outside the door. This is the Globe company in the making. They burst in. "Our theatre burnt down and we had to go touring," one shouts. "Not much fun. But soon we'll be able to return to the Globe,



Children at Robert Browning Primary School in Walworth get to know the Bard

and we need your help to get a play ready! We need dancers for our sheep-shearing fair. But look out for pickpockets!" Cue for Act IV, Scene 4 of *The Winter's Tale*. That snap-

per-up of unconsidered trifles has soon pinched a school scarf. A shepherd strikes up the school-keeper's dances. Ballads are sold. The troupe dances out with the children.

Alastair Tallon, education development manager at the Globe, watches as six years of Globe Education's projects bring Southwark to new life. "We want the Globe to be a catalyst for activities and work in the borough," he says. "Going to the theatre in Shakespeare's day was about popular culture and entertainment. We want to change people's perceptions about what happens in theatre and what happens in schools."

A project like this encourages teachers to teach Shakespeare way beyond the appallingly unimaginative Key Stage tests — to draw and build on real responses from the children."

Tesco shoppers in the Old Kent Road, Elephant & Castle Metro and Surrey Quays will be able to read all about it in a special newspaper written by the children and distributed free at the checkouts on Shakespeare's birthday.

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OPERA

Medea event: Cherubini's great classical tragedy is superbly staged by Opera North in Leeds



DANCE

The genius of Frederick Ashton is celebrated at Covent Garden in an evening of mixed fortunes

THE TIMES ARTS



CONCERTS

John Cage is featured as the "prepared piano" makes its comeback at the Purcell Room



POP

Seattle grungers, but sane? Can the Presidents of the United States of America be for real?

A woman scorned is a marvel

OPERA: In Leeds, Rodney Milnes sees Josephine Barstow produce a performance of rare power as Medea

It is turning out to be a good month for classical tragedy filtered through 18th-century operatic sensibilities: first Gluck's *Alceste* from Scottish Opera, and now Cherubini's *Medée* at the Grand, in Leeds. Both are dread words — "important" operas, and both are great operas, but their greatness is hard to convey to modern audiences. Scottish Opera didn't quite make it: Opera North's *Medea* is in most respects an absolute knockout.

Medea was premiered in Paris in 1797, when, in the cultural fallout from the French Revolution, it was perfectly acceptable for a serious opera to include spoken dialogue. This was less acceptable in the 19th century, and *Medea* survived in a hideously corrupt version with bad German recitative written 60 years later; translated into Italian, it became a vehicle for such scenery-chewers as Callas. Only in recent decades has the original French score been revived (but never recorded), often with non-French Medeas struggling with the words as best they could: Covent Garden's stab at the opera seven years ago was not generally accounted a success.

So what on earth do you do with so endlessly tricky a piece? Easy: you perform it in a superb new English translation by Kenneth McLeish and cast Josephine Barstow as *Medea*. Then you add the conductor Paul Daniel, the producer Phyllida Lloyd and the tenor Thomas Randle, who struck such sparks off each other in *Opera North's Gloriana*, and sit back as the brew bubbles to overflowing.

The goalposts have of course been moved since 1797. Then, *Medea's* homicidal tendencies — she's a woman, for heaven's sake — would have been profoundly abnormal and shocking; today, when Alan Bennett has isolated "the problem of the first wife" when writing about a rather different marriage (Orton and Halliwell), it seems less abnormal. *Medea* has "made" Jason: she's stolen the Golden Fleece for him, done the odd murder to help him on his way, and now he's trading her in for a younger, socially more advanta-

geous model, and removing her children. Many in the audience will be rooting for *Medea* from the word go.

I am being only half facetious, but Lloyd of course paints a broader picture. Set (Ian MacNeil) and costumes (Kandis Cook) present a smug, starchy 18th-century court society whose disintegration on a whirling revolve in the finale is terrifying, and deserved. Lloyd's actual direction is a masterpiece of art concealing art: you hardly notice it at all, but just believe completely in everything that is happening onstage. Only one or two over-smart light-changes disturb the seamless dramatic flow.

Barstow is a mistress of disbelief-suspension. She can chew the scenery with the best of them, but here as so often it is the moments of stillness that strike terror, the moments when she conveys the murderous thought processes behind the eyes. Her cast-iron technique sees her safely through the notes, and she speaks the text with a vibrant conviction that should be the envy of many a straight actress.

Randle heroically plays Jason as the rat he is, and gets by in hugely demanding vocal writing. Nicola Sharkey (Dirce, the younger model) has to negotiate Constanze-style coloratura, and manages it neatly while still doing justice to McLeish's words. Norman Bailey is the stuffy King, and Anne Wilkens sings *Medea's* Nurse, making much of her lovely aria with bassoon obbligato.

Beethoven greatly admired Cherubini, and, as conducted by Daniel, this *Medea* could well have been a long-lost Beethoven opera. Tense, febrile, full of suspense, the music bounded out of the pit and gripped the audience with its truly revolutionary inventiveness. And Daniel paced it perfectly, welding potentially dodgy transitions between music, spoken word and *mélodrama* into a perfectly coherent dramatic whole. Orchestra and chorus supported him with a will. Cherubini has truly been reborn in Leeds.



Josephine Barstow as *Medea*: "Her cast-iron technique sees her safely through the notes, and she speaks the text with a vibrant conviction that should be the envy of many a straight actress"

Two lessons and a conundrum

DANCE: Debra Craine sees the Royal Ballet continue its celebration of Ashton's choreographic legacy

A lot of ground is covered in the Royal Ballet's new triple bill celebrating the genius of its founder-choreographer, Frederick Ashton. *Symphonic Variations* is there to show us his glorious abstraction. *The Dream* has its exquisite handling of narrative and character. But what are we to make of *Illuminations*, which opens the bill?

Ashton choreographed Britten's song cycle *Les Illuminations*, a setting of Rimbaud's strangely fantastic verse (here sung by John Bowen), for New York City Ballet in 1950, a fact that probably accounts for the work's uncharacteristic signature. The familiar Ashton style — fleet footwork, angled shoulders, compact jumps, miniature decoration — here gives way to broadly written phrases of large, open movement and crude expressivity. The Poet's rebellion is physically manifested in frantic floppiness, his coupling with *Propane Love* is realised in the basest of body language — complete with gross and unnecessary gestures.

Seen here at Covent Garden for the first time in more than a decade, *Illuminations* emerges as a curio. Cecil Beaton's original Pierrot-inspired designs are wonderfully exuberant, even though the intervening decades have given some of his costumes more than a hint of transvestite karaoke (you couldn't get away with men in bare chests and ruffs in all seriousness today). And although the choreography does not transcend the conditions of its creation, the ballet does give us access to Ashton's wackier outer limits.

One could have wished for a better choice of Poet than Jonathan Cope for this revival. As fine a dancer as he is, this is not a role for him. Cope needs to assert himself through constantly moving shapes: on Monday night he was clearly not in sympathy with the work's posed historicism. Darcey Bussell (as *Sacred Love*) and Benazir Hussein (as *Propane Love*) were well matched in the long legs department, enticing the Poet with their voluptuous, wide-ranging arabesques (albeit with different goals in mind).

Symphonic Variations (to the Franck score) was created in 1946 for Covent Garden, a pure dance work that stands among Ashton's finest achievements. A virtual reaffirmation of the richness of harmony, *Symphonic Variations* is filled with unshakable confidence in the order of the universe. On Monday it was hard to appreciate

its symmetry, so undisciplined was the performance. Were the six dancers just under-rehearsed (the women were better than the men), or are they really so out of synch with classical ideals? And does Viviana Durante have to look so grim when she is dancing so well from the neck down?

The Dream is always a favourite with Covent Garden audiences, and so it proved again on opening night. Ashton's skill at distilling narrative into danced essentials is brilliant: so, too, is his ability to



Jonathan Howells as the Dandy in Ashton's *Illuminations*

write individual detailing into each of his characters. Mendelssohn's score was filled with lively colouring under Leslie Dunner's baton, and David Walker's designs still look ravishingly pretty.

Leanne Benjamin was flighty and volatile as *Tiania*, while her dancing was incredibly voluble. Tetsuya Kumakawa loves to show us how he can spin, but he has yet to learn that Oberon is about more than arrogant exhibitionism. The quartet of lovers (Genesis Rosato, Tracy Brown, Christopher Saunders and Adam Cooper) were outstanding, as was the corps de ballet of fairies.

POP: The home of gloomy grunge sends us the Mount Rushmore of happy rock; the finer points of 'nuevo flamenco'

Monster raving loony party

THEY come from Seattle, a repository in recent years of all that is dark, twisted and tortured in rock. And their bass-heavy guitar sound is a close relative of the grunge formula ("We rock" is one of their proudest boasts). But the Presidents of the United States of America are the light-hearted flipside of the macho grunge coin.

With sales of their eponymous debut album past the two-million mark in America, and a second hit single, *Pezeshak*, slamming into the British charts this week, they have clearly struck a major chord with music-lovers who have heard enough about the worries of the world and now

The Presidents of the USA
Astoria, WC2

simply want to have a good time.

A trio mustering just five guitar strings between them — Chris Ballaw plays a two-stringed "basitar", Dave Dederer plays a three-stringed "guitbass" and Jason Finn plays a "no-string" drum-kit — the Presidents took to the Astoria stage wearing bright shirts and baggy shorts. Opening with a storming version of the MCS's *Kick Out the Jams* that inspired immediate

and delirious pandemonium in the rammed-full, 2,000-capacity venue, they proceeded to play a set of high-energy rock'n'roll with a unique, gooball spin that was impossible to dislike.

The high point of a brisk, varied and supremely entertaining show was the sudden segue from the quirky *Naked and Famous* into a whiplash version of their first British hit, *Lump*. As wave after wave of crowd surfers broke against the wall of security men at the foot of the stage, the band's manifesto came across loud and clear. The Presidents rock.

DAVID SINCLAIR

United notions

Paco de Lucia
Festival Hall

electric bass to his backing group seems to have provoked almost as much consternation as the young Bob Dylan's defection to the electric guitar. All of which might lead you to expect to expect something akin to the pop hooks and disco beat of crowd pleasers such as the Gypsy Kings. Well, Lucia does make use of a nimble light show in the darkened auditorium, but the

overall approach was relatively austere, especially in a first half largely given over to solo pieces and extended duets.

Later, de Lucia deployed his full complement of guitars, bass and percussion supplemented by the muezlin-like vocals of his brother Pepe and the keening saxophone of Jorge Pardo. The compositions took on a less frenetic character, the jagged, staccato attack balanced by gently rippling arpeggios.

This was not the tourist version of flamenco. Whenever the tall, charismatic figure of Joaquín Grilo took the centre of the stage it was for displays that were hypnotic, not histrionic. The dance was not allowed to upstage the music.

CLIVE DAVIS

Out of the Cage

CONCERT
Ryder/Stowe
Purcell Room

netts. Their programme, entitled *Sound-Moving-Sound*, made physical and visual use of the Purcell Room stage, transforming the concert at times into drama.

Cage proved almost conventional, and the presentation of his music here was straightforward. It was also very

satisfying, especially in Ryder's virtuoso playing of *Daughters of the Lonesome Isle*, the dusky timbres of the prepared piano still work their spell.

Stowe sang the haunting vocalise of *A Flower in Pure voice*, though each phrase was interestingly coloured. She was communicative in the strange lyrics of *Eight Whiskus*, and vivid in *The Wonderful Widow of Eighteen Springs* and *Nowth Upon Nacht*, settings from *Finnegans Wake*.

The same James Joyce work has inspired a new piano piece by the young Irish composer

Deirdre Gribbin, *Waking in Laughtears*, given its premiere here. The opposite emotions of the title are powerfully evoked in richly textured music.

Much more limited in their expression were the pieces by Jeremy Peyton-Jones, Karla Tsepkenko and Giacinto Scelsi. The two Peyton-Jones numbers amounted to little more than dreary mood music, and Tsepkenko's *Evening Patience* tested mine. The onomatopoeic vocal sounds devised by Scelsi in *Ogloudoglu* and *CKCKC* lack the rich variety of Berio's comparable *Sequenza III*.

The final work, Graham Fikkin's neo-Romantic *Nasir*, is an impressive setting of lines from Gabriel García Márquez's *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*, the grim tale matched in music that evokes harsh heat and dust. Stowe's soprano soared vibrantly right to the end of this duo's demanding programme.

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THE TIMES Crème 12-14 JUNE 96

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£20,000 - £25,000

London/Oxon

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This position will be based in London, but you will spend some time most weeks at Harwell Science and Engineering Centre in Oxfordshire.

Interested candidates should send a CV and covering letter to: Beverley Kay, Human Resources, AEA Technology plc, Harwell, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 0RA.

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£18,000 + paid OT, bonus, gym, restaurant, pension, bupa
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Experienced Personal Assistant/Secretary for Director of Human Resources

Central London

Salary c. £20,000 plus benefits

An experienced, energetic, competent PA is needed for this demanding job. You will need to be flexible in your approach to work and used to meeting tight timescales. The job involves a broad range of secretarial skills and needs someone who can be depended upon to support the Director in meeting a very busy work programme, leading a team of more than 350 people.

The Department includes a whole range of personnel areas, including training and recruitment as well as change management areas, Occupational Health, Quality and Business Excellence, Facilities (buildings) and other corporate services. You can play a vital role in making the whole team more effective.

You will need strong planning and organising skills to ensure 'right time, right place, right briefing, right papers'. You will enjoy working on your own initiative with highly developed 'people' skills to ensure good communications and sensitivity in dealing with confidential issues in your day-to-day work. The job is diverse - you could be organising a conference, making travel arrangements, joining a team to better understand the railway or arranging Board papers - and be equally comfortable when it comes to dealing with visitors or just listening to other people's problems.

In addition to excellent secretarial and keyboard skills, you must be able to demonstrate evidence of the following key skills: planning and organising; flexibility and adaptability; discretion and confidentiality; motivation, resilience and self-awareness; and concern for order and quality.

If you need a challenging job and would like to be part of providing an essential service in London, this could be just the opportunity for you.

To apply, please send your cv together with a covering letter highlighting the identified key skills, quoting reference CDV 47415, to: **Central Human Resources-London** 47415, to: **Jan Whitehead, London SW1H 0BD**. Closing date for applications is 7 May 1996.

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£20,000

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No agencies please.

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We would welcome the opportunity to tell you about the team including the reasons why they earn the highest hourly rates, deserve the reputation for being the best in central London and how you could join this very special team.

Several of our temps will be here to give you first hand information about the service they receive from us, the type of companies they work for, their assignments and why they have chosen to temp with Crone Corkill.

So if you're curious to discover more, please join us for a glass of wine in a relaxed, informal atmosphere. Everyone attending will automatically be entered for our Champagne prize draw.

Drinks 5.30-7.30pm

RSVP: Tel: 0171-434 4512 **Crone Corkill**

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Crone Corkill
Temporary Recruitment

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Sought by busy sole professional. WFO/hrs. S.I. Legal experience preferable. S.I. and application required for sometimes hard work (occasionally client) in private W.I. address, giving on much interest and responsibility as you want. Flexible hours if required.

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£22K neg. + car parking

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Please fax your CV in the first instance to Jan Teager Fax: 0181-847 5268 Tel: 0181-568 5516

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Human Resource Management Consultants

PA TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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£17K neg. + car parking

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Up to £24k + excellent benefits

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0171 493 2888

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Salary according to age and experience
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Apply in writing enclosing a CV to: Brenda Hearnings
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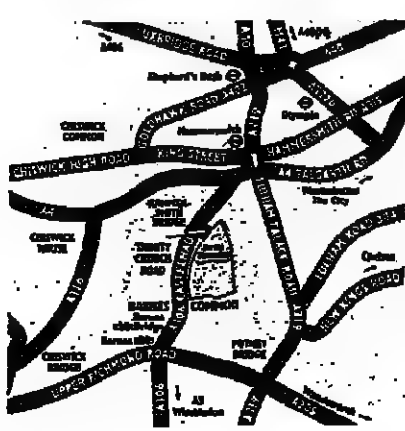


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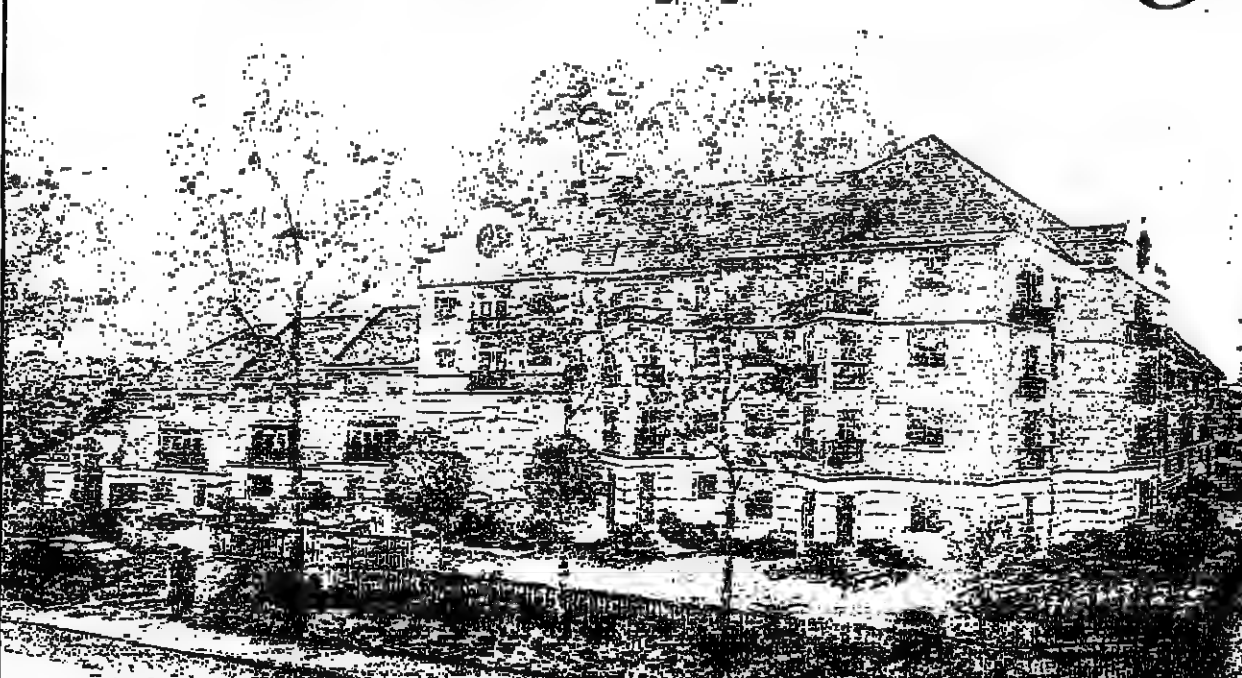
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Steve Ovett has added a thriving cottage industry to his historical home, reports Rachel Kelly

The house was built by John

Gold-medal buy: Kinmount House, the Border home of Steve and Rachel Overt, was built in 1812 for the Marquess of Queensberry. It is now on sale for £1.3 million

His son, Lord Alfred Douglas, was infamous for his links with Oscar Wilde, who was a frequent visitor to Kinmount: Wilde's associ-

and a courtyard which the Oveys have developed into their holiday cottages.

The cottages are let by Country Cottages in Scotland. They are

Mr Overt last struck gold at the 1986 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh, when he won the 5,000 metres. He has a lucrative contract commenting on athletics for ITV.

Kames Castle, on the Isle of Bute, is on sale with 20 acres and seven letting units for offers of more than £520,000 with Knight Frank. It has been on the market for a year.

● **Kinmouni** is for sale through the Edinburgh office of Savills (0131-226 6661)

The year-on-year increase now stands at 22 per cent, with a total increase since the middle of 1993 of 48 per cent. With a buoyant farmland market it has made sense to split up large estates, with the main house selling separately from its farmland, says Crispin Holborrow from Savills.

RACHEL KELLY

[illegible]

Optical illusion highlighted by Premiership leaders' change of strip

Colour code taxes United's grey matter

I have long sneered at golf, asking how it can be considered a sport when its players wear pink polyester trousers. But the argument is losing its force as football players are now almost as badly turned out as golfers.

Matters came to a head on Saturday with the great Manchester United away-kit drama. Having worn just about every colour in the spectrum over the past half-dozen seasons — black with a yellow trim, yellow-and-green squares, and blue and white — they came up with a real wow.

Dead sexy, eh? The John Major strip. It was designed not for football but to look cool with jeans. And the footballers hated it. Desperate times require desperate measures. Three goals down at half-time on Saturday, they changed shirts, back to the old blue-and-white job. They still lost, but at least they knew who to blame.

MIDWEEK VIEW



SIMON BARNES

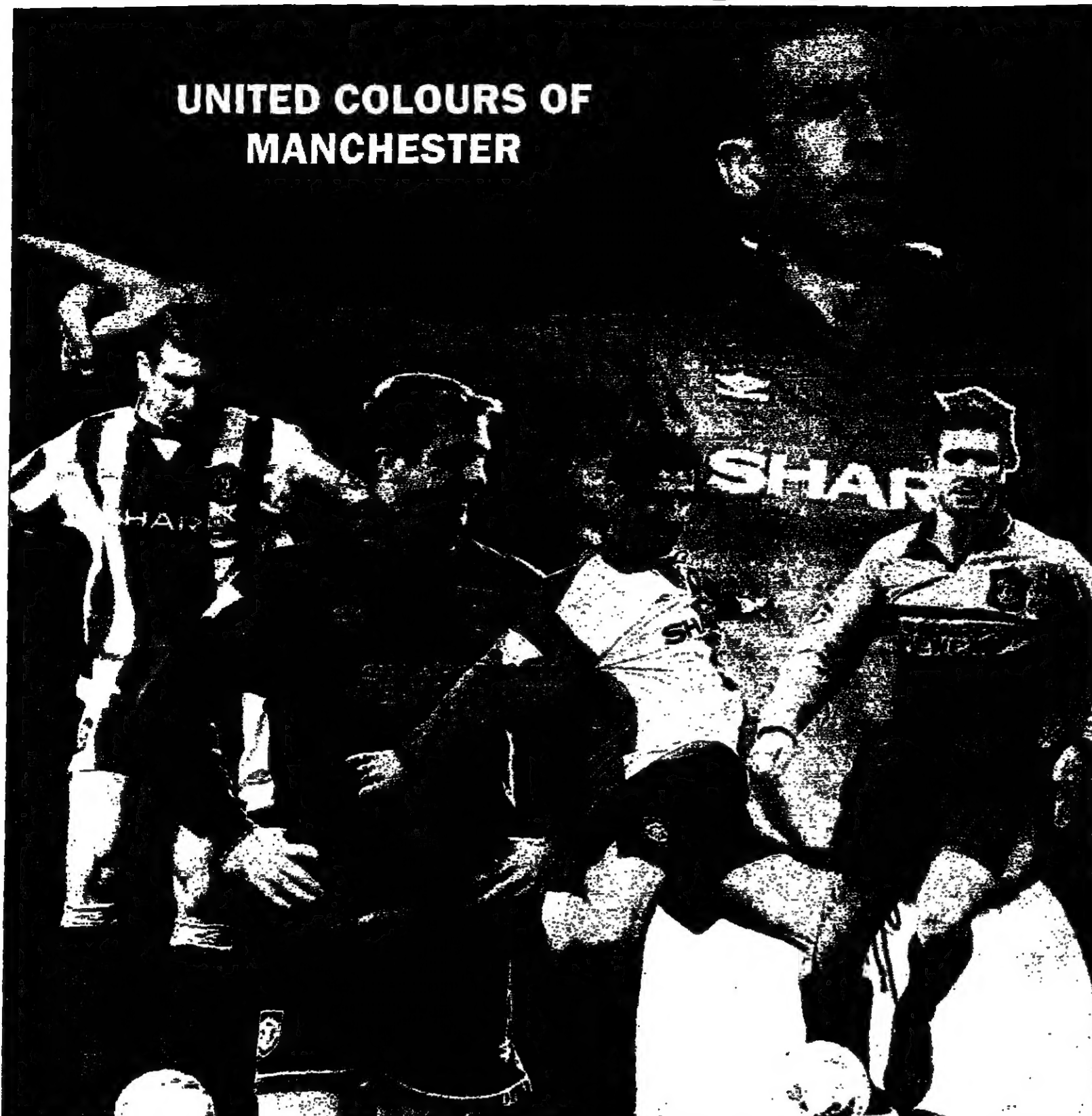
Alex Ferguson, the United manager, had approved the change, in response to Lord-knows-what piteous agonies in the dressing-room. And he, quixotically, attempted to defend the change on purely rational grounds. "You can't pick people out at a distance. Players just blend into the crowd."

The argument falls down when you reflect that Manchester United's huge marketing operation aims to sell replica Manchester United shirts to everyone in the whole world. A match at Old Trafford is played by men in red shirts against a background of 50,000 people, all in red shirts.

If you were to choose a colour purely for its optical benefits, there would be only one choice — white. If I may put on my safari hat (green) for the next couple of paragraphs, I will explain why.

Because of the arrangement of rods and cones in the eye, your peripheral vision is particularly good at picking out movement, less good at seeing colour. Most of our fellow mammals lack colour vision altogether, but they are very sharp indeed at picking up faint movement.

Watch an antelope or a rabbit run away from you. What do you see? A flashing



UNITED COLOURS OF MANCHESTER

white bum. White is the danger signal and it is chosen because it is the easiest to pick up, especially at the edge of your vision. Moral: when you go on safari with me, don't wear white. The game will spot you a mile off.

The same rule holds good for football. If you want to be aware of flying colleagues on the edge of your vision, to have what commentators call "great awareness", remember that the whiter they are, the easier they are to spot.

Now the obvious conclusion to draw from all this is that Leeds United are the finest passing side in the FA Cup Premiership, so we are forced to the conclusion that there are

other considerations. Red is far and away the most popular colour for a football shirt and United, on the toss of a coin, have won the right to wear it against Liverpool in the FA Cup Final. It is chosen for psychological rather than physiological reasons: its association with aggression, pomp, triumph and blood.

The traditional football shirt was designed to give an advantage to its wearer: the present shirts are designed to give an advantage to their seller. Footballing considerations are remote from the minds of strip-designers. You can't even read the numbers at Newcastle or Southampton. Clothes are part of what a

person is; that counts double for all uniforms. In rugby, both codes, players want to give an impression of overwhelming bulk. You would therefore expect rugby players to favour horizontal stripes, to emphasise massive chests and shoulders — an elementary optical illusion — and that is why rugby players wear hooped shirts.

In football, bulk is not as important as height. Vertical stripes make you look taller. Footballers mainly prefer stripes to hoops. Les Ferdinand, bearing down on the goalkeeper on Sunday in black-and-white stripes, looked like a rampaging giant.

All this is very rational, but what has rationality got to do with it? In sport, what matters is not whether a thing is true, but whether it is believed. Manchester United players believe their grey strip is unlucky and the belief has become a self-fulfilling prophecy. Their Premiership record in the ghastly grey this season is four losses and a draw in five games — the grey strip has cost them 14 points.

When I played for the mighty Gwai-loong team in Hong Kong, we always wore all white because white is the Chinese funeral colour. Opponents hated it. Worth a goal start, it was.

Manchester United and Umbro for ripping off the supporters. Agreed, it is all highly distasteful, but hear a plain fact: it is not compulsory to buy a Manchester United shirt. Good old United are bringing out not one, not two, but three new strips next season. There will be a new red strip for home games, the blue-and-white will be phased out halfway through, and now the John Major strip will be replaced by a white one.

Good move, Chinese sides will have no chance against them, the supporters will still look cool in jeans and players will have phenomenal awareness. Don't wear the damn things on safari, that's all.

Hall wins in adversity

DARREN HALL, trying to follow England's bronze in the team event with another medal in the men's singles, overcame flu, some controversial officiating and the most dangerous floater in the draw to reach the second round of the European badminton championships here in Herring, Denmark, yesterday (Richard Eaton writes).

The former European champion, from Essex, who is the No 3 seed in the event, beat Pontus Janit, the world No 30 from Finland, 15-12, 15-8, but he needed to see the doctor as soon as the contest was over.

"I woke up with a sore

throat, feeling giddy and seeing black stars. I was very worried," Hall said. He found himself 12-6 down in the first game and was struggling when an incident in which he appeared to be wrongly penalised for touching the net with his racket paradoxically worked in his favour. His angry protest earned him a warning from the umpire, but it also acted as extra motivation. "The adrenaline came into my system and I felt better after that," he said.

Anne Gibson, the first Scot to be seeded in the European women's singles, withdrew with a knee injury.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 44

HARDTAIL

(c) American Wild West slang for a mule. "Hardtails are mules, usually old ones. So named because they show little response to the skinner's whip. Young mules are shavetails."

NIBUNG

(b) A Malaysian palm, *Oncosperma filamentosum*. "We made very good curry: stewing it with the heart of a nibung or cabbage tree."

KEATING

(e) The proprietary name of an insect powder. An eponym of Thomas Keating, the 19th-century chemist who invented the stuff to make cockroaches turn over and point their legs at the sky. "I am in England. I shall sleep in a clean white bed, and I shall not have to use Keating."

LORAN

(d) A hyperbolic navigation system employing the difference in the times of arrival of pulsed radio signals from different stations. An acronym made from initial letters of long-range navigation. "Get a Loran fix," Peter Spence had his face glued into the rubber cyclops of the Loran. He counted the jumping electric lines and the long-number blips. He then transferred his eyes to the Loran map."

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Coward's eye view of life

Noel Coward — From His Diaries. Radio 4, 8.05pm.

Among Simon Cadell's bequests to us are happy memories of his beleaguered holiday camp entertainments manager in *Hi-De-Hi!*. I remember him best, however, for his polished work in Coward plays. He was vocally non-imitative of the master, concentrating instead on his sophisticated spirit. Cadell's mastery of Cowardly wit can be heard in this series of readings from his diaries, introduced by Tony Steavere. The first generous helping includes Coward's thoughts on the Princess Margaret's wedding (the Queen scowled a good deal), the West's wartime alliance with the Soviet Union (we are going to have a hell of a time with them) and the universal decay of values (there are no standards left but in the *Ewing Standard*).

Voices: Thomas Quasthoff. Radio 3, 10.15pm.

A couple of weeks ago, thanks to Radio 3, we were memorably reminded why, in January, a Wigmore Hall audience clapped their hands and cheered themselves hoarse, and why the more discerning critics ran out of superlatives. What united audience and critics was the Wigmore Hall debut of Thomas Quasthoff, the German baritone. Tonight's recording is of the recital's second half, songs by Wolf and Richard Strauss. Charles Spencer accompanied songs by Wolf and Richard Strauss. The reason we hear only about 25 minutes of actual song is that the rest of the time is taken up by ovation.

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 4.00am Clive Warren 6.30 Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whalley. incl. at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier. incl. at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 Alan Parker — Road Warrior 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 Wendy Lloyd

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.15 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.00pm Debbie Thorne 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.00 John Dunn 7.00 Jon Lloyd with Folk on 2 8.00 Bluegrass Ramble (54) 8.30 Leaders Tapes (44) 9.00 Cajun Clubhouse (58) 9.30 Nigel Ogden 10.30 The Jamesons 12.00am Steve Macdonald. incl. Pause for Thought 3.00 Alan Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme. incl. 6.55, 7.55 Racing preview 8.35 The Magazines with Diana Maitland. incl. 10.05 Eurosport 11.30 Wildlife News with Euan MacIver 12.00 Midday with Mai. incl. at 12.30pm Moneycheck and at 1.15 Entertainment News 2.00 Russco on Five. incl. at 3.05 Russco Returns and Racing from Newmarket 3.45 Entertainment News 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide. incl. at 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra. incl. at 7.20 sport 7.45 Tiger Broderick's Football Night 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra. incl. at 11.15 Financial World Tonight 12.00am After Hours 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.30am The Breakfast Show with Paul Ross 10.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Ræburn 3.00 Tommy Boyd 5.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Sport 10.00 James Whittle 1.00 Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. 5.00am Newsdesk 5.30 Europe Today 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 The World Today 7.30 Megamix 8.00 News 8.15 On the Shelf 8.30 Discovery 9.00 News in German 9.15 Concert Hall 10.00 Monday 10.05 Business 10.15 Andy Kershaw 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 BBC English 11.45 On the Shelf 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30pm City-Music! Drama 1.00 News in German 1.30 Composer of the Month 2.00 Newsday 3.00 News 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Megamix 4.00 News 4.05 Sports Roundup 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 Business 5.45 Britain Today 6.00 News 6.10 World Today 6.25 Science View 6.30 News in German 7.00 Newsdesk 7.20 Discovery 8.00 Newsday 8.00 News 9.01 Outlook 9.25 Words of Faith 9.30 Multitrack: X Press 10.00 News 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 Monday 11.00 Newsday 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sports Roundup 12.00 News 12.00am Science View 12.15 Country Style 12.30 Multitrack: X Press 1.00 Newsdesk 1.30 From Our Own Correspondent 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Outlook 2.55 Word of Faith 3.00 Newsday 3.30 Monday 4.00 News 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Mike Read 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susan Rye: Simons 2.00pm Concerto 3.00 James Cok 6.00 Newswright 6.30 Sonata 7.00 Gardening Forum (t) 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Home 7.30 Paul Coyle 10.00 Mark Forest 2.00-4.00pm Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew MacGregor Byrd (Mass for Four Voices); Darius (Cello Concerto); Vivaldi (Violin Concerto in G, Op 2 No 6); Liszt (Prelude and Fugue on Bach); Sibelius (Spring Fies Fast, Op 13 No 4); The First Kiss, Op 26 No 1); Gerstwin (Second Rhapsody) 9.00 Morning Collection, with Catriona Young Chopin (Polonaises, Op posth; in G minor and E flat, 1817); Vaughan Williams (Mass in G minor); Walton (Viola Concerto) 10.00 Musical Encounters. Presented by Peter Burdett. Artist of the Week: Charles Groves conducts the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra Grace Williams (Fantasia on Welsh Nursery Tunes) 10.12 Chaperonier (Medea, Act 3); Shostakovich (Scherzo, Op 1); Haydn (Piano Sonata in C, H XVI 48); Prokofiev (Dreams); Smirnov (Sonata for flute and harp); Shostakovich (Scherzo, Op 7); Delius (Sea Drift) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Debussy. Includes excerpts from Pelléas et Mélisande starring George Shirley, tenor, and Elisabeth Soderstrom, soprano 1.00pm Birmingham Lunchtime Concert, live from Studio One, Pabst Mill Mayrums Selter, violin, and Caroline Palmer, piano, Britten (Sella, Op 6); Beethoven Violin Sonata in G Op 96) 2.00 Schools Together 2.20 Time and Tune 2.40 Drama Workshop 3.00 Midweek Choice, presented by Susan Sharpe. Includes: Jephtha (Psalms) for small orchestra; Adam Shapling (Viola da gamba); Coleclough-Taylor (Sulite, Choral) 4.00 Choral Evening, from the Chapel of Clare College in Cambridge 5.00 The Music Machine, with Janice Forsyth 5.15 In Tune, Duparc (Au pays où se fait le gémme); Haydn (Piano Trio, 1817) 6.00 BBC Rusk Hour Concert, live from the Wigmore Hall in London. The Gould Piano Trio with Philip Dukes, violin, and Patricia Selts, piano; Beethoven (Variations on Ich bin der Schneider Kalladui); Schubert (Piano Quintet in A, D 667) (30) 7.00 Cocktails. The third of five sequences of dance music from 1920-1945 (t) 7.30 Pages from a Notebook. A selection of pieces from Bach's family music album 7.45 Acle and Gales, live from the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London. Barbara Bonney, soprano, Hans Peter Blochwitz, tenor, Ralf Müller, tenor, and Jeremy White, bass, with the Choir and Orchestra of the English Concert under Trevor Pinnock 8.35 An English Evening 8.55 Part 2 9.55 Emotion Pictures, by Wim Wenders (35) 10.15 Voters. See Choice 10.45 Night Waves, with Richard Cole 11.30 Composer of the Week: Georg Muffat (t) 12.30 Jazz Notes with Digby Fairweather

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing and weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today and 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Midweek. With Times columnist Libby Purves and guests 10.00 News: A Reprising Fellow (FM only) (24) 10.00 Daily Service (LW only) 10.15 This Scepter'd Isle (LW only) 10.30 Woman's Hour 11.30 Gardeners' Question Time 12.00 News: You and Yours 12.25pm Chambers. A new five-part sitcom, by Clive Coleman, about the questionable practices of a group of barristers. With John Bird, James Fleet and Lesley Sharp 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: London Particulars. The second of a two-part Victorian detective thriller by John Peacock. With Todd Carly and Charles Simpson 3.00 News: The Afternoon Shift 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Gambaccini reviews the new cinema releases including Twelve Monkeys and Smoke 4.45 Short Story: Hilde's Lark, by Michael Carson. Read by David Timson 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Counterpoint, with Ned Sherrin (t) 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Science and Wonderers. In a society where we have a greater understanding of the human brain, is there room for the religious language of the spirit? (35) 8.05 Noel Coward — From His Diaries. See Choice 8.35 Key Witness. Sir Frank Roberts discusses with Alan Watson his involvement with British foreign policy in Europe from 1930-68 (1/3) 8.00 Costing the Earth. Mark Whittaker looks at the relationship between technology and the people charged with protecting the environment 9.30 Kaleidoscope (t) 9.59 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Devil's Own Work, by Alan Judd (3/5) (t) 11.00 Seymour the Fractal Cat. The comedy adventure of Gary Parker. With Greg Proops and John Hegley (2/5) 11.30 We Know Everything (FM only) The solutions to queries revealed by Don Gaster and Paul Powell (t) 11.30 Today in Parliament (LW only) 11.45 Elastic Planet (FM only) The first of a six-part comedy of connections by Ben Macdonald. With Miriam Margolyes, Dan Strauss, Kerry Shale, Michael Smirns and Gary Waddock (t) 12.00 News incl 12.27am weather 12.30 The Late Book: Kitchen, by Banana Yoshimoto. Read by Emily Wood (3/5) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.8-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8. LW 198: MW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8. MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. UK. MW 1053, 1069. Television, and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

Hands up, who'd like to lose their marbles?

This morning we should know the result of an interesting telephone vote. Would Britons restore the Elgin Marbles to the Parthenon? At the end of William G. Stewart's *With-out Walls* programme last night (Channel 4), he gave out those yes-no-89 numbers as if to say "But that's enough from me. Those Greeks believed in democracy! Come on, folks; now you decide."

Now this was in fact a cunning twist to that wonderful old ideal of democracy that the Greeks dreamt up. Because, in case you didn't see it, Stewart's "Fifteen to One Special" was a thorough, reasoned plea in favour of cultural restitution, with all potential objections neatly answered and dispatched. In the course of an hour, the case for retaining the Marbles was made only twice: by Sir David Wilson losing his temper in an old interview (it's cultural fascism!) and by Lord Inglewood of Her-

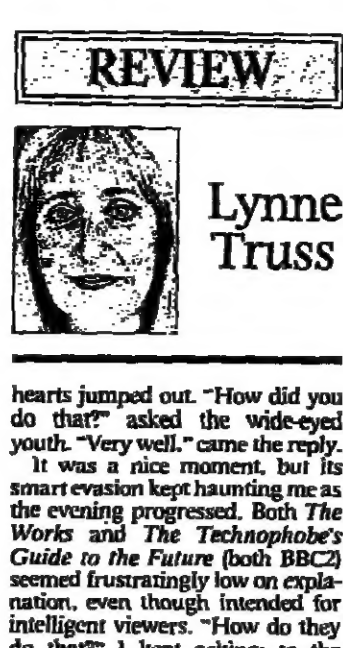
tag. So when this vote was proposed, a whiff of rodent stayed my eager hand. "Jeremy Paxman wouldn't approve of this," I told myself, firmly. Which was reason enough (as always).

So today an overwhelming telephone vote may suggest that the British will give the Marbles back, while actually proving nothing of the sort. Personally I agree with Stewart on this issue, but that homely phrase "own worst enemy" applied to this programme, as it so frequently does to this compulsive lark-driven series. What was the lark last night? Well, of course, place Stewart in his regular *Fifteen to One* studio, where he is a game show host, with busts of Greek gods in place of contestants. Reduce the issue to question-and-answer! Present the proceedings in a flatly lit long-shot of Stewart's double-breasted blazer! Mercifully, at least the Greek gods did not take part in a knockout quiz —

perhaps because, in the usual uncooperative manner of Greek statuary, some of them were facing the wrong way.

Stewart's only weak argument has his emotional appeal. If Hitler had stolen Nelson's Column and erected it in Berlin, we would demand its return, wouldn't we? Remember Nelson's Column? He urged us. But try getting worked up about this hypothetical, try shaking your fist in the direction of Berlin, and you will find it does not come easily.

Yesterday afternoon The *Lowdown* (BBC1) concerned a young would-be magician called Keelan Lyster. At one point, he consulted David Berglas, the president of the Magic Circle, and Berglas performed a trick. "Name any card," said Berglas. Lyster chose the six of hearts. Berglas cast a full pack of cards on to the table, and the six of



Lynne Truss

hearts jumped out. "How did you do that?" asked the wide-eyed youth. "Very well," came the reply. It was a nice moment, but its smart evasion kept haunting me as the evening progressed. Both *The Works* and *The Technophobe's Guide to the Future* (both BBC2) seemed frustratingly low on explanation, even though intended for intelligent viewers. "How do they do that?" I kept asking: to the

reply, "Oh, you know, well enough." Perhaps I was misled by the title of *The Works*, but in this first of a new series of arts-documentaries, the story concerned a dangerously flawed office block in Manhattan — Citicorp — and it seemed quite crucial to ascertain, you know, why it was in danger of falling down. Especially if, when it fell, it was predicted to initiate a domino effect, knocking down skyscrapers all the way to Central Park.

By the end of half an hour, I just knew that "How did they do that?" was "Duh!" The physics were still a mystery. But then, to be fair, the physics seemed mysterious to the people who built it, too. Engineer William LeMessurier explained how he had subsequently worked out the wind factor required to knock down the building, and calculated it occurred every 16 years. "I'm 52," he said: "it could happen in my

lifetime." This was a surprise not only for his selfish logic, but because the poor bloke looked 70 if he was a day.

As if determined not to tip over in a wind itself, *All Fall Down* was a rather stolid documentary. Just as the physics were missing, so was drama, which was odd. I mean, for heaven's sake, these men were faced at one point with the decision to "own up" and evacuate an enormous area in the most famous city in the world, Hurricane Ella approached, the clock ticked on the wall, the repair-work spot-welding on the building was only half done, and down below New York bashed hailed cabs, raised umbrellas, and ate cheesecake, unaware of the disaster movie unfolding above their heads.

I'm not saying *The Works* should have employed a sooty-braved Bruce Willis, welding at

midnight in a vest. But *All Fall Down* was oddly lacking in narrative excitement: it was almost dreamlike. Last autumn's documentary series *The Limit* (BBC2) tackled similar engineering stories to much greater effect. Perhaps the problem here was that the engineers were still pole-axed from the horror of it all.

Finally, *The Technophobe's Guide to the Future* is a lively magazine with youthful, big-personality presenters who test new techno products rather than explain how they work. But it is enjoyable, and it has statistics. Apparently 650,000 people in Britain have home cinema systems. One such, visited by Dominic Diamond, had spent £33,000 on it. "You can buy a lot of things for £33,000," said Diamond. "A very good car, an extremely poor centre forward, or 165,000 bags of crisps." An admirable effort, I thought, to get the thing in perspective.

CHOICE

East: The Hidden Troubles

BBC2, 7.30pm

Dalit Dhalwal, an increasingly familiar presence on Channel 4's excellent news reports from Northern Ireland on the racism suffered by the Province's Asians. She is suggesting that it parallels the 25 years of hostilities between the two main white communities, but Ulster's ethnic minority has grown to some 15,000 and it is increasingly subject to abuse and attack. Nor is it the claim the protection of the Race Relations Act. When the measure was passed in 1976 there was no perceived need for it outside the British mainland. Among those appearing in Dhalwal's film are a Chinese restaurant owner forced into hiding in London on fire and a young victim of racial bullying in the school playground.

Lonely Planet

Channel 4, 8.30pm

The travel series for the young and intrepid visits three provinces of southwest China in the company of Justine Shapiro. Gallantly abandoning home comforts, she endures a three-hour journey by horse and cart, and another two hours on foot, to say hello to a remote hill tribe making its first television appearance. Since this part of China was opened to Western tourists only in 1984, the lack of exposure might not be surprising. Elsewhere Shapiro is game enough to explore cultural differences, even if this means eating dog meat or submitting to acupuncture. In Chengdu, capital of the largest Chinese province Sichuan, she samples "the liveliest nightlife in China" (though you wonder how she knows). It sounds promising but seems to offer nothing more exciting than an antiques market.

Modern Times: Ellen's in Exile

BBC2, 9.00pm

Six years ago Stephen Lambert made the sort of documentary which you do not easily forget. Called *Hilary's in Hiding*, it charted a bitter custody battle over a young American girl. Her mother, a plastic surgeon, accused her father, a dentist, of molesting the child and raping her. Hilary is now called Ellen and Lambert's new film brings the painful story up to date. Frustrated by the American courts, Ellen's mother sent her to New Zealand to escape the father's clutches. He has always maintained his innocence and continues to fight the case step by step. Now 13, Ellen wants to end her involvement with her legal position in the United States is uncertain. She is adamant that she does not want to see her father. The case has gone as far as Congress, where a Bill is being discussed that would allow Ellen to come home on her own terms.

Madison

BBC1, 9.30pm

The unlikely premise of what promises to be an enjoyable series is that a convicted murderer can come out of prison with a law degree and make a new career in the legal profession. The twist is that John Peter Madison (as McShane) has always denied killing his wife and is determined to find out who did. Blocking his way are a couple of bent cops determined to rub him out before he gets to the truth. Although a subplot gives Madison a dying son to add to the tragedy of his murdered wife, the overall tone is, surprisingly, far from dark. The script by Ian Kennedy Martin establishes a real heart here and gets what he wants by cutting corners and knowing the right people. Some may see echoes of that other jailbird, *Lovely, though Madison* has a shorter and tidier haul. Peter Wyndham

SATELLITE AND CABLE

1.30 *Crashy Crawlers* (1992) 2.00 *94 and Red* (1992) 2.30 *Grumpy Old Men* (1992) 3.00 *East the Cat* (1991) 3.30 *Police Academy* (1984) 4.00 *California Dreams* (1994) 4.30 *World's Funniest Home Videos* (1995) 5.00 *World's Funniest Home Videos* (1995) 5.30 *World's Funniest Home Videos* (1995) 6.00 *World's Funniest Home Videos* (1995) 6.30 *World's Funniest Home Videos* (1995) 7.00 *World's Funniest Home Videos* (1995) 7.30 *World's Funniest Home Videos* (1995) 8.00 *World's Funniest Home Videos* (1995) 8.30 *World's Funniest Home Videos* (1995) 9.00 *World's Funniest Home Videos* (1995) 9.30 *World's Funniest Home Videos* (1995) 10.00 *World's Funniest Home Videos* (1995) 10.30 *World's Funniest Home Videos* (1995) 11.00 *World's Funniest Home Videos* (1995) 11.30 *World's Funniest Home Videos* (1995) 12.00 *World's Funniest Home Videos* (1995) 12.30 *World's Funniest Home Videos* (1995) 1.00 *World's Funniest Home Videos* (1995) 1.30 *World's Funniest Home Videos* (1995) 2.00 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Three new faces in England squad

Venables makes alternative arrangements

By ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

ONE man's injury is another's opportunity and England's preparations for the European football championship have been carved up as though with a surgeon's knife. Yesterday, Terry Venables named his squad for the considerable test against Croatia at Wembley next Wednesday and included Jason Wilcox, the Blackburn Rovers winger, who, 13 months after an operation to repair a cruciate ligament, has the chance to challenge for a place on the left side of England's Euro '96 team.

In the same breath, the England coach had to announce that Alan Shearer is out of the Croatia game. He will enter hospital tomorrow morning for an operation to cure a persistent groin strain.

The Blackburn news, good and bad, overshadowed muted celebrations in London, where two of the capital's young and gifted sons are on the threshold of their first appearances for the full England side. Such is the paucity of fit England centre backs — Tony Adams, Gary Pallister, Steve Howey and Gareth Southgate are all absent — that opportunity knocks for Ugo Ehiogu, of Aston Villa, born 23 years ago in Hackney, and Sol Campbell, 21, of Tottenham Hotspur and from Newham in east London. Both are mobile, adventurous players, and one or other will play against Croatia, probably alongside Mark Wright, of Liverpool, a man at the other extreme of the age limit and another wrestling with injury.

So the medical bulletins go on and on around Venables. At Highbury, on Monday night, he checked on the form

of Campbell, whose pace and versatility matched Ian Wright until, late in the game, he surrendered to cramp. But Venables also witnessed the return of Darren Anderton, a player he hopes even more earnestly will recuperate from a long absence through injury. On the field for just 12 minutes, Anderton nevertheless displayed the gliding movement, the touch and vision for which Venables was looking. He is omitted from the squad to allow Tottenham to give him as many matches

whether there is an ounce of residual fear in the player.

And, if it seemed curious that Blackburn should report yesterday that Shearer intends to play against Wimbledon tonight — indeed he is determined to score his thirtieth goal of the season before meeting the scalpel — then let the player speak for himself: "It's disappointing, but by doing what I'm doing now [having the operation], the specialist is confident that I will be fit for Euro '96." Time will tell.

Venables took the news philosophically, he had no choice. Theoretically, he has the very best English players to select from, but it is a fact that, come the moments that matter, prized players are wounded.

While Venables has called up Stan Collymore to fill Shearer's boots, he is likely to persevere with the Sheeringham-Ferdinand combination which troubled Bulgaria last month. Fowler and Collymore is an alternative, but alternative is the key word.

Ehiogu, 6ft 1in and more than 12 stone, has risen tall since West Bromwich Albion sold him for £40,000 to Villa. He had an intriguing battle of wits and speed with Faustino Asprilla on Sunday. Ehiogu, a defender who can operate in the three-man rearguard which Venables would like to use, was stretched to the limits, twice badly fouling the Colombian, but nevertheless stuck to his task, to his elusive man, like a veteran.

He is more likely than Campbell to make the team against Croatia. Yet Campbell is evidence of Venables' long memory, and of the efforts to provide a link between England schoolboy potential and the full national side.

Campbell was taught the game by John Cartwright, at England's School of Excellence, then reschooled under Osvaldo Ardiles and Venables as he rose swiftly into the Tottenham first team. Playing left back, right back, his preferred midfield, centre forward and centre half, this boy, whom his colleagues in the victorious 1993 England European Youth Cup-winning team dubbed Garth, seemed to accept every challenge.

Amazingly, for one who suffered from cramp a couple of nights ago, his physique seems never to have rebelled for long against the loads inflicted upon it. While still growing, physically and mentally, he has come through three turbulent seasons in Premiership football, and those who know him well have no doubts that he will adapt and stay in the England team, given the chance.



Cerón and Sobanska add a spring to their step yesterday as they prepare for the marathon. Photograph: Robin Mayes

Figa stays behind as Sobanska defends her title

By DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

SOME get to compete in the Flora London Marathon, others get no further than training for it. Figa the dachshund has been running 45 miles a week in preparation for the race on Sunday, but Figa has been left at home while Małgorzata Sobanska, his owner, defends the title she won last year. Dogs are not allowed to run in the London Marathon. Anyway, where would you pin a number on a dachshund?

Sobanska trains twice a day and, on the second run, the easy one, her pet goes with her. Figa is best out of it this weekend because Sunday will not be easy. Sobanska, from Poland, faces, among others, Liz McColgan, a Scottish triathlete if ever there was one.

When Sobanska won last year, it took her national federation and parents by surprise. "Her family were watching on Eurosport and they were all crying — mother, aunt, sister, father," Piotr Mankowski, her coach, said. Though a Sobanska victory would be no surprise — she has recently set personal bests at five and 15 kilometres — her parents will not attend. They will watch on television in Poland. "My mother worries so it's best they do not come," Sobanska said.

Dionicio Cerón, from Mexico, the men's defending champion, will have none of his family in London either. "Why would you take your wife to work?" Cerón said at last year's marathon. Racing is strictly business for Cerón, who, if he becomes the first man to win three successive Londons and sets a world best, will take his earnings from the event to about \$1 million.

Is he confident? "I am looking for victory, but I am human and sometimes a human has problems," Cerón, the only athlete to beat Zix 9min twice in London, said. Two recent half-marathons — in 61min 5sec and 62min 16sec — speak of a champion in form. With arguably the strongest field in the history of the event there to challenge Cerón, no wonder David Bedford, the elite race director, was suggesting yesterday that London could see its first sub-2hr 30min race. Greyhound rather than dachshund pace.

Title race approaches extra time

By PETER BALL

THE FA Carling Premiership title last year was not decided until the last day of the season. With the finishing post looming into view, Manchester United and Newcastle United take the latest fences tonight knowing that it could go even further this time, with the first championship play-off needed to separate the clubs.

Manchester United go into the game against Leeds United at Old Trafford with the advantage of a three-point lead, a goal difference of 29 against 27 and they have scored two more goals than Newcastle, who meet Southampton at St James' Park. Should it remain the same after tonight, should Newcastle win their game in hand 2-0 and should the teams' other results match, they will finish with identical records.

Premier League rules then call for a play-off on a neutral ground. Although such a match would fill Wembley, finding a suitable date could be a problem if Liverpool and Manchester United draw in the FA Cup Final on May 11. A positive result would leave the replay date, May 16, free for a play-off. With England play-

ing Hungary on May 18 and departing for their Far East tour two days later, the schedule otherwise is tight.

"I don't think it's fair to pile everything on one extra game after a 38-game season," Terry McDermott, the Newcastle assistant manager, said yesterday. Alternatives, however, are thin on the ground. A decision based on the meetings between the clubs would give the title to United; shar-

Brown's waiting game... 43
Waddle rejects contract 43

ing the title, as has happened in the cricket county championship, would not yield an entrant for the European Cup.

"I don't think it will come to that," Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, said after training yesterday. "But we know how important goals are now."

Gary Pallister — described by his manager as "the best centre half in the country" — returns after missing nine games but United's main problems have been at the other end. Apart from their 6-0 win at Bolton, scoring goals in recent games has been a

question of "if not [Eric] Cantona, then who?"

Leeds's form should provide Ferguson's team with the opportunity to give themselves a significant advantage. Stories linking the Leeds captain, Gary McAllister, with Rangers have surfaced again and with the future of their manager, Howard Wilkinson, the subject of continuing speculation, a picture of a club in disarray is painted, but the Yorkshire team have offered unyielding defence in recent League meetings.

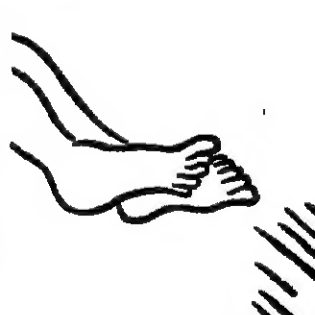
If the Premiership is to be decided in a photo finish on the number of goals scored, most people would back Newcastle should Ferdinand's goal on Sunday presage the end of the England striker's barren spell. However, Ferguson said: "Southampton are one club we're confident about in terms of trying. It's either that or they go down."

Southampton's win against Manchester United on Saturday, which opened up the Premiership race again, and the return to form of Matthew Le Tissier will send them to St James' Park with more confidence than seemed likely. "Le Tissier was superb against us," Ferguson said, but in the

Premiership Southampton have only won one away game and Newcastle have lost at home only once all season.

With Coventry City, who occupy the third relegation place a point behind Southampton, playing at Nottingham Forest tonight, the situation is almost as tight at the bottom. Manchester City have the worst goal difference by a long way, but if they were to escape, it is conceivable — especially if Newcastle run riot tonight — that Southampton and Coventry could also require a play-off.

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Lions' tour comes under threat

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE future of rugby union's five nations' championship hangs in the balance. Yesterday, England's decision to terminate a gentlemen's agreement over television rights evoked a forthright response from the other unions, who will review their international relationships at all levels.

The implicit threat is that they will refuse to play England in the foreseeable future, which will also mean the end of tours abroad by the British Isles (they are due to visit South Africa next year) and cause immense damage to the game's fabric in the northern hemisphere.

The other member unions of the committee will now be requested to consider the future format of the five nations' championship and additionally the question of relationships at all international representative levels, "a statement said after the five nations' committee met in Dublin yesterday, adding ominously: "This breakdown by England from the existing arrangements could have im-

plications for British Lions tours."

The five nations will meet again on April 27 in Dublin, but the Rugby Football Union (RFU), adopting the position of a party more sinned against than sinning, said that it sought a practice prevalent in other sports and added that France had always negotiated their own television rights.

"The RFU understands that the five nations' committee are considering the five nations' format for the future," Tony Hallen, the RFU secretary said. "We believe that all unions will be able to benefit individually from our decision."

The Scottish Rugby Union said that every effort would be made to change England's perspective. "The unilateral decision taken by the RFU to negotiate its own broadcasting rights is a point of principle which would undermine the whole structure of the five nations' championship," Freddie McLeod, Scotland's representative, said. Syd Millar, the Irish union's president, called it "the biggest threat to rugby union since the [rugby league] split of 1895".

There are two underlying

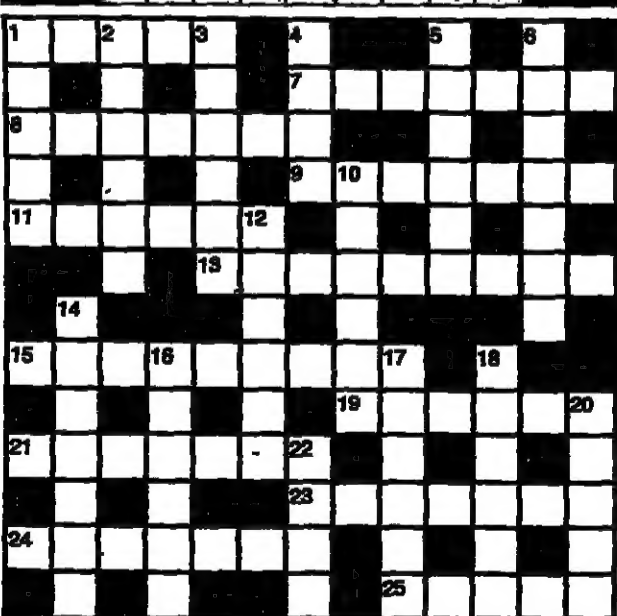
assumptions to England's stance. One is that they will continue to dominate the championship and the other that their significance within the championship is greater than any other country's.

The first should be true, given England's superior playing strength to all save France, but history shows that only within the past six years, in modern times, has it been the case. The second ignores the fact that the championship sustains its fascination not because of the quality of play but because of its sheer unpre-



Hallen: "benefit to all"

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 758

ACROSS

- 1 Leafy shelter; violinist? (5)
- 7 Member of inner circle (7)
- 8 Gravelly beach; English (anag.) (7)
- 9 A Glorious day; a Shakespearean Night (7)
- 11 Transfixing pin (6)
- 13 Gogol comic novel (4,5)
- 15 Thick fog (3-6)
- 19 Bede, Cuthbert lie in its cathedral (6)
- 21 Trying to be refined, proper (7)
- 23 Initially (2,5)
- 24 Crane; oil-well framework (7)
- 25 Throw out (5)

DOWN

- 1 Ground, principle (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 757

- ACROSS: 1 Cuff 3 Pencil 5 Tearful 10 Roost
11 Horror story 13 Levite 15 Steady 17 Sideracked
20 Aroma 21 Maestro 22 Hush-hush 23 Larc
DOWN: 1 Catch-all 2 Flair 4 Enlist 5 Car boot sale
6 Apocry 7 Tutu 9 Fog to death 12 Syndrome
14 Viscous 16 Stumps 18 Kitty 19 Rash

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 753

- In association with BRITISH MIDLAND
ACROSS: 1 Tundra 3 Mope 8 Acne 9 Apoplexy
10 Bull's-eye 11 Owen 12 Shinto 14 Nimbus 16 Shot
18 Recount 20 Detainee 21 Comb 22 Wail 23 Trendy
DOWN: 2 Uncouth 3 Dwell 4 An axe to grind 5 Malcolm
6 Pkide 7 Come on a treat 13 Not half 15 Unrained
17 Hyena 19 Cane

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